

Makers deny faking drugs documentary

Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley on claims over Carlton TV film

THE film-makers behind a controversial award-winning documentary on the Colombian drugs trade yesterday vehemently denied newspaper allegations that they had faked the programme. They are considering legal action.

Roger James, executive producer of *The Connection*, said last night that he would continue to back Mare de Beaufort, the film-maker, until he saw convincing evidence to the contrary. "Allegations of a conspiracy at Carlton were absolute rubbish," he added.

Mr de Beaufort dismissed *The Guardian's* allegations, saying he had given full co-operation to its inquiries during the past eight months and that its claims were based on the testimony "of a convicted drug trafficker and a disgruntled former employee of Carlton Television". He insisted he stood by the integrity of his work.

The Guardian alleged that drug "mules" seen in the film had been fakes who did not have drugs in their stomach when they came into the Britain and that the man interviewed as the number three in the Cali drugs cartel had in fact been a retired bank cashier with low-level connections to the drug trade.

The paper also said that the journey from Colombia to London presented as a continuous 24-hour trip was filmed in two legs six months apart. The Independent Television Commission and Carlton Television have launched investigations into the claims, which if proved, could result in a heavy fine for the broadcaster.

The irony behind *The Guardian's* allegations is that they were published the day after the Independent Television Commission made some of its most favourable comments on the quality of



From the film: heroin plugs ready to be swallowed

Carlton Television programmes.

In 1993, Carlton's first year on air after ousting Thames Television from the London weekday franchise, the commission, commercial television's regulatory body, was scathing about Carlton's performance and said it had been "well below expectation" and that the company's offerings to the ITV network had been neither distinctive nor of notably high quality.

Since then Carlton's reputation as a programme maker has improved considerably and on Tuesday the commission praised its high-quality programmes and singled out its strong contributions on social action themes.

The Connection, the documentary complained of, did not come from inexperienced independent producers but was an in-house production from Central, the second largest ITV company, which is owned by Carlton.

Six days before the film's transmission Mr James, its executive producer, and Don Christopher, head of legal affairs at Carlton, had a meeting with Adriana Quintana, the Colombian researcher

Mr Christopher formed the opinion her allegations were contradictory and motivated mainly by money, and decided to take no further action.

Neither decided to refer the issue to senior editorial management and the documentary went ahead as scheduled. Apart from winning prizes, the programme was sold to 14 countries around the world.

Mr de Beaufort said last night of the *Guardian* journalists involved: "I have repeatedly invited them to interview me and view all my film's rushes in the face of their constantly changing allegations."

The Carlton board decided to make no new statement until the second part of *The Guardian's* report is published today. Nigel Walmsley, Carlton director of broadcasting, said the company had not been able to substantiate the newspaper's allegations but that the issues involved would be fully investigated and the result made public.



Roger James, the film's executive producer, who stands by its maker

Watchdog hears few complaints on privacy

By CAROL MIDGLEY

COMPLAINTS about invasion of privacy accounted for only a fraction of the cases dealt with by the Press Complaints Commission last year. Some 12 per cent of complaints lodged with the press watchdog concerned privacy, while nearly 70 per cent related to accuracy and opportunity to reply.

Last year the commission tightened its code of practice after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. A spokesman for the commission said: "The death of the Princess did not produce a surge in the number of privacy complaints. The number was about the same as in the previous four years."

Of the remainder of complaints, about 6 per cent were about discrimination and 3 per cent about harassment.

The commission's annual report disclosed that it dealt with 2,944 complaints in 1997, compared with 3,021 in 1996. Some 34 were upheld and 514 were resolved with the newspaper concerned.

Fly-on-the-wall producers cheat to win ratings

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE television documentary has lost prestige in recent months. Viewers have learnt in particular of some of the tricks used in "fly-on-the-wall" films, programmes that depend on maintaining the viewer's trust.

One of the most embarrassing revelations this year was that Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* programme *Rogue Males* had fabricated certain scenes. The edition in February was about "cowboy" workmen and wheel-dealers scratching a living through illegal activities in Salford, near Manchester.

The director later admitted that some of the scenes had been manufactured. It also emerged that one of the principal interviewees had appeared in another documentary, *The Complainers*, where he claimed to be someone who constantly argued with shopkeepers. The man, Alan Birkin, is a stand-up comedian determined to get on television.

The BBC's admission that some of the scenes in the hugely successful "docu-soap" *Driving School* were reconstructed or faked did not cause a huge outcry, but nevertheless contributed to the growing feeling of mistrust about the integrity of factual programmes.

As early as 1991, questions

were being asked about documentaries. It was alleged that three young people pretended to sleep rough in an office doorway for *Breadline Britain*, an ITV series on the homeless. The main female character had appeared in four other documentaries.

Industry insiders say that film-makers are under increasing pressure to deliver results as budgets are squeezed further. The recent glut of fly-on-the-wall documentaries means that the public also expects increasing insights into people's lives.

Television producers are resorting to greater extremes to deliver ratings. Two months ago it was revealed that a guest who dropped his trousers in front of millions of viewers of the BBC's *Kilroy* live debate programme was hired by the producers to boost ratings. Alex Leroy had been told to "wind up" the audience with his outrageous views during a discussion on adultery.

Another hoaxer, Dave Smith, masqueraded on *Kilroy* as a loan shark, wearing a wig and false moustache, and a few weeks later as a homeowner who had tortured a burglar. Mr Smith, 38, said he had outwitted inexperienced researchers desperate to produce colourful television.

Unmissable offers

Half-price Ralph Lauren

Polo Ralph Lauren Oxford Shirt
House of Fraser, Thurrock, £60
Tesco £30

Stonewash Polo Jeans
Selfridges, London, £65
Tesco £32

Polo Jeans Co Flag Sweatshirt
Index Catalogue, £69
Tesco £20

at tesco

TESCO

Every little helps.

FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY TESCO HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF GENUINE RALPH LAUREN CLOTHING: INCLUDING SWEATSHIRTS, JEANS, T SHIRTS, OXFORD SHIRTS, CAPS AND CHINOS. ALL AT FANTASTIC PRICES, BECAUSE Every little helps.

POLLO RALPH LAUREN OXFORD SHIRT, POLLO JEANS CO. STONENWASH JEANS, POLLO JEANS CO. FLAG SWEATSHIRT. PRICE SURVEYS CARRIED OUT 24TH APRIL 1998. AT SELECTED LARGER CLOTHING STORES ONLY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. WHY NOT VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.tesco.co.uk

Sue fees

ripped allergy

Interest too good... e, that... hat the... d be.

Move to something bigger.

With our low cost mortgage rate.

- It's easy to transfer.
- Our mortgage rate is 8.2% APR variable.
- Call us now for more details.

DIRECTLINE

0181 649 9099 LONDON
0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER
0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday.

Bank Holiday Monday opening hours 8am to 6pm.

www.directline.co.uk Please quote ref. TT132

Subject to credit checks. Available in England, Scotland and Wales. Security required. Rate correct as 27/04/98. Subject to variation. Withdraw operations on request. YOUR HOME IS NOT A BUSINESS. IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red phone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc used with its permission.

3
36

Sue fees

Nurse tells how smokers' corner gave her asthma

By Russell Jenkins

A NURSE yesterday described working in the unbearably hot and fuggy atmosphere of a lounge known to the chain-smoking residents of an old people's home as "smokers' corner". She was launching a landmark legal battle highlighting the dangers of passive smoking.

Sylvia Sparrow, 60, a state-entitled nurse, told the Manchester High Court that breathing in recycled smoke made her feel sick at the end of her five-hour shifts at Worsley Lodge in Swinton, Salford.

Sore throats and coughing gradually developed into asthma but, despite her protestations and one brief respite working elsewhere in the privately run home, she was told to go back into the room where the smokers met.

Mrs Sparrow, who has not been able to work since February 1992, is suing St Andrew's Homes for failing to provide a safe place for her to work. She is claiming for injury and loss of earnings, saying that the five years she spent nursing the elderly blighted her career.

Her costs are being underwritten by the Royal College of Nursing. Mrs Sparrow's lawyers describe it as the first passive smoking test case to be heard in England and Wales. If she is successful, employers would be legally obliged to ensure that their staff have a relatively smoke-free workplace.

Mrs Sparrow, from Swinton, joined the staff at Worsley



Sylvia Sparrow: she is suing old people's home

party for residents and their guests. The atmosphere became very smoky and Mrs Sparrow became very ill. Mr Rawley said. She had not been able to work since.

Many institutions provided smoking rooms and it was "not beyond the wit" of the home to keep her away from the smoke, particularly since it had been warned of her disability, Mr Rawley added.

Mrs Sparrow, giving evidence, said that there five heavy smokers and two chain-smokers who congregated in the "green lounge". When she came in for the early shift, there was already smoke hanging in the air.

"It made me feel sick," she said. "It was so hot, it was unbearable. I started to experience sore throats and, by the time I came off my shift, I could hardly speak. I would say to myself I don't know how I will get through my shift."

The hearing continues.



The Queen depicted in a gentle, flattering light by Robert Wraith

Radiant portrait shows Queen in a softer focus

By Alan Hamilton

SHE has been depicted with dark wrinkles, with hands like a pound of sausages, now at last comes a flattering portrait of the Queen.

Commissioned by Shell to mark the centenary of the Anglo-Dutch oil giant's operations in Britain, the painting is the work of the Oxfordshire-based artist Robert Wraith, who tinkered with it up to the very last moment. When it was unveiled yesterday by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, the varnish was still wet.

The Queen is shown in a formal red dress and dark cloak, wearing diamond jewellery. But her features are in soft focus: they alter like a hologram depending on the angle of view, but, with the close-set eyes and wide mouth, they emphasise her Hanoverian lineage.

Wraith was too shy to attend the unveiling at the Mall Gallery in Central London yesterday, where the painting will hang until it moves to its permanent home in Shell's

boardroom. But the artist later explained: "My work is not photographic, everything in the light plane has to be understated. That is why her features are in soft focus. My ideal is Velázquez; he suggests rather than depicts."

Wraith had ten hours of sittings with the Queen, posing her by the same Buckingham Palace window where Annigoni painted his celebrated 1954 portrait. "The Queen was helpful, lively, fascinating to talk to, and very, very funny. The idea that she is out of touch is nonsense," he said.

Wraith, 46, went to Florence as a teenager to study under Annigoni. He recently accompanied the Prince of Wales as official artist on a visit to southern Africa.

The painting won general approval yesterday. The Secretary of State, having unveiled it, called it "a work of great affection and sensitivity". The art critic Brian Sewell awarded the work seven out of ten.

ripped allergy



Why quitting can be such a drag

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists have discovered one of the reasons why it is so hard for smokers to break the habit.

Although nicotine, the active ingredient in tobacco, is much less powerful in its effects than heroin, cocaine or even alcohol, they found that withdrawal from it depressed the reward functions in the brain. This meant that smokers who gave up felt depressed and desperate for another cigarette, they said. The effect of nicotine on the "pleasure centres" was the same as that of other drugs, such as heroin or cocaine.

The scientists concluded that cigarettes established their hold by creating such a sense of deprivation among smokers

who stopped that they felt compelled to light up to dispel it. This, the authors report in *Nature*, "constitutes an important motivational factor that contributes to craving, relapse and continued tobacco consumption".

The team from the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, based their findings on tests carried out on rats. They injected the nicotine below the skin, using small pumps to maintain levels comparable with a 30-a-day smoker.

When they turned off the pumps, they observed the reactions of the rats, and measured the pleasure centres in the brain with implanted electrodes.

£10,495 WITH ABS BRAKES AND AIR CONDITIONING

THE BEST PRICE TO PAY FOR YOUR HIRE

In the special edition Renault Mégane Liberté, you can head off into the sunset armed with the reassurance of ABS brakes (now standard on all Méganes). The comfort of air conditioning. And change from £10,500*. And given the Liberté's slick handling, sure grip, power steering and advanced 75-bhp engine, who'll blame you?

You'll be well protected, of course. With a driver's airbag, Side Impact Protection Bars and front seat belt pretensioners, the Liberté's safety package is unmatched by any of its rivals.

You'll even enjoy one year's free comprehensive insurance**. And when you've done roaming, a computer padlock engine immobiliser and anti-drill door locks will be there to deter anyone intent on taking a Liberté.

But despite all this, with Renault Freeways you can pay just £129 (14.7% APR*) per month for the hatchback Liberté. And that's not all. If you just test drive a Liberté - or any Mégane hatchback or Classic - before May 22nd, you could find yourself winning a fabulous holiday for four in the South of France.

So if you've ever fancied slotting your favourite tape into a superb fingertip control hi-fi and just seeing where the road takes you, feel free.

For more information on the Liberté and the Mégane test drive prize draw, plus your nearest Renault Dealer, call 0800 52 51 50.

RENAULT

WIN A LUXURY HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE**

1. Price depends on final payment. All Renault Méganes have a 12-month unlimited mileage warranty with the RAC membership plus an 8-year anti-rust warranty and Renault Accidents Service Facility. *Prices correct as of going to press include 17.5% VAT and transport charges unless stated otherwise. Excludes dealer fees, security deposit, optional extras, and 12-month Government road tax licence. Offer ends 31st May 1998. **Prize draw open to all Renault Mégane Liberté customers who have purchased and registered by 30 June 1998. Winner's name will be selected by random draw. Renault will pay for the holiday for the winner and their family. The prize is subject to the terms and conditions of the prize draw. For full details see Renault website. Renault will pay for the holiday for the winner and their family. The prize is subject to the terms and conditions of the prize draw. For full details see Renault website. Renault will pay for the holiday for the winner and their family. The prize is subject to the terms and conditions of the prize draw. For full details see Renault website.

interest too good to be true, that's what they'd be.

You can't put a price on our Business Starter Pack.

IT'S FREE

If you're thinking of going into business for yourself, you'll find our Starter Pack invaluable. It includes a business plan with profit and cashflow forecasts, on both debt and equity. Then you'll receive our Essential Guide for Small Businesses too.

When you're ready to start up, you'll get discounted banking for three years.

And you'll also get the advice that's only truly committed to the success of your business.

For your FREE pack call

0800 056 0056

See full details in Starter Pack. Some calls may be recorded and monitored. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Lloyds Bank Business Banking

3
36

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

THE SHOE QUEEN
At the court of
IMELDA MARCOS



IN THE FREE Glossy Magazine

GERMAINE GREER

AND... meet R. L. Stine
The **Goosebumps** man

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Explosion to rival Big Bang baffles astronomers

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE biggest explosion yet detected has been traced to a galaxy about 12 billion light years away. For a brief moment, the event produced as much energy as the rest of the universe put together.

The explosion, which was picked up by two satellites on December 14 last year, has baffled astronomers. "The energy released by this burst in its first few seconds staggers the imagination," says Professor Shrinivas Kulkarni, of the California Institute of Technology, one of the co-discoverers. "Most of the theoretical models cannot explain this."

The most violent events previously known are supernova explosions, when a giant star at the end of its life explodes. Last December's explosion was several hundred times more powerful, and about equal to the total energy emitted by our galaxy over two centuries. Only the Big Bang itself, which nobody was around to witness, is known to have been more powerful.

The event was detected by the Italian/Dutch BeppoSax satellite and the United States



Secret of axe appeal: men in the first sizeable human groups needed to compete for women, says Dr Mithen

Stone Age tale of sex and chopping

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MODERN men who flash their platinum credit cards, Ferrari keys or mobile phones in the hope of impressing women are really rather primitive. Stone Age man tried just the same thing with his handaxe, says a British scientist.

The axes, often beautifully crafted, have puzzled archaeologists for decades because the artefacts appear to have been made far more carefully than necessary. Now Steven Mithen, of Reading University, has suggested that the craftsmanship may have coincided with human groups reaching a size that caused competition for mates at the Stone Age equivalent of the beach bar or barbecue.

"It is inevitable that material culture would get caught up," says Dr Mithen. "You simply don't need a nice, symmetrical artefact for butchering. You can do it with a simple [stone] flake."

Archaeologists often find dozens, or even hundreds, of the axes together, and there is often little indication that they have ever been used. Handaxes first appear in the archaeological records about 1.4 million years ago, when fossil evidence suggests that hominids' brains were becoming larger. Larger-brained primates usually lived in larger social groups. Some of the earlier axes may have been purely utilitarian, Dr Mithen tells *New Scientist*, but the craftsmanship grew.

Clive Gamble, an archaeologist at the University of Southampton, partly agrees: "The idea that they are not just technical pieces, but social pieces, is a good line to be taking, but I am not sure about sexual display." He suggests that the axes might prove to be the earliest form of hominid art.

Dixons

LATEST RANGE

OF TOP BRAND HI-FI IN STORE

WIN WORLD CUP TICKETS
ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

Technics SC HD51
CD MICRO HI-FI

- 2x30 watts (RMS) power output.
- 4-piece component system.
- 39 preset digital tuner.
- Remote control.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Dixons Deal

NEW £399.99

MINI HI-FI **SAVE UP TO £100**

GRUNDIG MDC CD MINI HI-FI • Plays up to 3 CDs • 2x20 watts (RMS) power output • Digital tuner • Soft touch twin cassette • Stereo Price £229.99	aiwa NSX-S302 CD MICRO HI-FI • Plays up to 3 CDs • 37 watts (RMS) per channel • Stereo Price £229.99	Panasonic SC-AK25 CD MINI HI-FI • Plays up to 3 CDs • 2x70 watts (RMS) power output • 4-piece component system • Soft touch twin cassette deck
SONY MDC-R30 CD MINI HI-FI • Plays up to 3 CDs • Includes 4 speakers • 2x100 watts (RMS) power output • Stereo Price £249.99	aiwa NSX-A715 DOLBY PRO-LOGIC CD MINI HI-FI • Plays up to 3 CDs • 75/25/75 watt speakers • Stereo Price £249.99	DENON D-F07 CD MINI HI-FI • 4-piece component system • 2x25 watts (RMS) power output • 30 preset digital tuner • Stereo Price £299.99

***INTEREST FREE OPTION** (See store for details)

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Part of DSG Retail Ltd

ORDER HOTLINE 08000 63 28 68

PRICE CHECK

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

PIONEER NS7
COMPACT CD MINI HI-FI

...this is one smart system, and impressive at the price!

- Ultra sensitive LCD display unit
- Well mountable speakers
- 30 watts per channel
- sub-woofer
- Includes stand
- 3 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Dixons Deal

NEW £549.99

MICRO HI-FI **SAVE UP TO £50**

MATSUI MCH765 MICRO CD HI-FI • 2x25 watts (RMS) power output • Digital tuner • Remote control • Ultra sensitive LCD display • Stereo Price £249.99	aiwa LCX-110 CD MICRO HI-FI • 32 preset digital tuner • 3 remote graphic equaliser • Remote control • 2x25 watts (RMS) power output • Stereo Price £249.99
Amstrad MDC200 MICRO HI-FI • Stereo profile • Only 150mm thick • Car or wall or table mounted • Detachable speakers	JVC LX-888 CD MICRO HI-FI • 2x20 watts (RMS) power output • Stereo Price £249.99

SONY MDS-JES10
RECORDABLE MINDISC RECORDER

- Full VCR disc edit functions
- Jog disc control
- Compact coaxial inputs
- Remote control

• 2x30 watts (RMS) power output
• Stereo Price £229.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £50

NEW £199.99

SONY MDT313
CD MINI HI-FI WITH RECORDABLE MINDISC

- Combines MiniDisc with CD cassette and tuner
- Full VCR disc edit functions
- 2x30 watts (RMS) power output
- Stereo Price £499.99

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50

NEW £449.99

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

Eyesight surgery 'lacks sufficient safeguards'

The eyesight of patients who have surgery to correct their vision deteriorates in up to 3 per cent of cases, according to a survey by *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine. The report comes after an ophthalmic journal said that up to 12 per cent of patients treated by laser surgery had significantly worse eyesight after the operation. About 13,000 people a year have laser or microsurgery to correct long or short sight, but *Which?* said there was insufficient control of the procedures.

The magazine sent investigators to 11 eye clinics and hospitals posing as customers. Although most were given good information, *Which?* says it was given considerable cause for concern by some of the interviews. One woman who was pregnant was told that she could have surgery, even though such action is not recommended.

Plagued by arthritis

The bug that causes bubonic plague may hold the key to a new treatment for arthritis. British scientists have isolated a protein from the plague bacterium that appears to reduce inflammation in the joints of mice. The research may also lead to new ways of treating other diseases, such as inflammatory bowel disease. The studies, reported in *New Scientist*, are being carried out by scientists at Porton Down, the Ministry of Defence site in Wiltshire.

Typhoid gene link

Carrying the gene for cystic fibrosis may give protection against typhoid fever, according to a group of American and British scientists. The finding could explain why the highly damaging gene has persisted in humans over thousands of years. The gene identified by scientists in Boston, Bristol and Cambridge is responsible for making a cell-membrane protein, which occurs in two copies. Only those who have two deficient copies suffer the disease.

Crabs clash over des res

A hermit crab with its eye on a new home is every bit as competitive as a human home-buyer, experiments at Queen's University, Belfast have shown. When one crab tries to displace another from a particularly desirable shell, it takes a great deal to put it off. Crabs fought harder if the potential gain was greater, the team reports in *Nature*. The results show that changing shells is not a process of negotiation — as some believed — but of aggression.

Best chocolate bar none

Scientists believe they have found the key to perfect chocolate. Tests show that cocoa butter can crystallise into six different arrangements of molecules. One, dubbed V, gives the smoothest chocolate, say researchers at Heriot Watt University and the Central Laboratory of the Research Council at Daresbury, Cheshire. The team, funded by Cadbury, has been trying to create factory conditions that allow the V crystals to dominate over less tasty forms.

SALES GROWING FAST - CASHFLOW CAN'T KEEP UP?

Griffin

get your cashflowing

0800 34 34 35

please quote ref 77205F

THE TIMES

Judgeordea

Frances Gibb

Start a pension when you grow old

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services

Investment Authority. The price of your investment as well as up and you may depend on your own personal circumstances. Calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and

هكذا من الأصل

Judges 'must end trial ordeal of rape victims'

Frances Gibb on new guidelines to prevent humiliation of witnesses

JUDGES in rape trials were urged by the Lord Chief Justice yesterday to put an end to lengthy and humiliating cross-examination of victims by defendants acting in person.

Issuing new guidelines, Lord Bingham of Cornhill told judges that they should take a more interventionist approach and either halt questioning if it sought to humiliate or order the installation of a screen. The guidelines will be followed in the next few weeks by a consultation paper from the Home Secretary that is likely to recommend changes in the law to give further protection to vulnerable witnesses.

An interdepartmental committee has made recommendations and the report is now with ministers. Yesterday Lord Bingham said that, in the tradition of the British legal system, defendants were entitled to represent themselves in civil and criminal proceedings. However, if a defendant was motivated by a "desire to humiliate, intimidate or abuse", then judges should call a halt or even take over the questioning themselves to save the complainant from avoidable distress.

Sitting in the Court of Appeal, he said: "If the defendant seeks by his dress, bearing, manner or questions to dominate, intimidate or humiliate the complainant, or if it is reasonably apprehended that he will seek to do so, the judge should not hesitate to order the erection of a screen in addition to controlling the questioning."

Women Against Rape said yesterday that the guidelines did not tackle the root of the problem: "Judges have always had these powers, and they have failed to use them. Furthermore, the kind of questioning the guidelines are meant to tackle relate only to defendants acting for themselves. But this kind of questioning is not unusual: the only difference is that it is barristers who usually ask the



Brown, left, and Edwards both defended themselves

questions." The group said a change in the law was needed to remove a judge's discretion to allow questions about a woman's sexual history and to exclude such questions. Lord Bingham was giving judgment refusing Milton Brown leave to appeal against his conviction and 16-year prison sentence for twice raping a woman and indecently assaulting and falsely imprisoning another.

But his guidelines come after a series of similar cases. One was that of Ralston Edwards, who spent six days questioning Julia Mason during his trial at the Old Bailey last year, wearing the same clothes as he wore during the 16-hour attack on her at her South London home. Mrs Mason waived her right to anonymity, claiming that Edwards was "reliving the rape moment by moment", and urged male politicians to change the law. "For God's sake and women's sake, may this never happen again."

In the trial of Brown at Knightsbridge Crown Court last November, the rapist sacked his defence team, conducted his own defence and subjected his victims to merciless cross-examination, pausing between questions for up to ten minutes and making offensive suggestions.

At the end of the trial, Judge Timothy Pontius said that it was a matter of understandable public concern that an unrepresented defendant in a sexual assault case had a "virtually unfettered right personally to cross-examine his victim in needlessly extended and agonising detail for the obvious purpose of intimidation and humiliation".

Earlier this year, Brown, 44, of Walworth, South London, was given an extra five years for stabbing and beating another woman while he kept her imprisoned "like an animal" for four months in his barred and padlocked flat.

Lord Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Penry-Davey, dismissed Brown's appeal against conviction. He said Judge Pontius had conducted

represented, but some would see this as an infringement of their customary rights. A trial judge's duty was to ensure the accused received a fair trial, but he must also have regard for the interests of other parties, particularly witnesses who were obliged to re-live their ordeal. The trauma they suffered should be minimised. It would often be desirable, before any questions were put, to discuss the course of proceedings with the defendant in the absence of the jury. A defendant should be told in advance that, having made a point, he would be required to move on. If he refused to do so, the judge should intervene.

The Home Office welcomed the judgment, but said that fresh legislation might still be needed to give rape victims full protection: "It's very helpful that the Court of Appeal has taken these steps in seeking to protect vulnerable witnesses from intimidation."

Lord Bingham said that the law could be changed to oblige a defendant to be legally

Law Report, page 42



Julia Mason was cross-examined by Edwards after he sacked his defence team

Accident lawyers to attack cut in legal aid

By Frances Gibb

THE Government will come under renewed pressure today to abandon plans to withdraw legal aid for accident claims.

Caroline Harmer, president of the 3,000-strong Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, says the proposals will save only £15 million out of the £1.6 billion legal aid bill.

Her comments, to be made at the association's annual conference, will be reinforced with an attack on current waste. "If the Government is asking solicitors to make the huge investment needed for its reforms, then it could also put its own house in order. Every day lawyers turn up at court only to find a case is not on."

The insurance industry, which backs wider access to justice for "middle-income Britain", is urging the Government not to bow to the legal lobby.

Brian Raincock, managing director of Litigation Protection, which provides insurance cover for "no win, no fee" work, said the momentum for the change should not be allowed to slow down.



your unused minutes from one month to the next

From May all Orange Talk Plan customers will automatically benefit from 'Relieve Minutes'. This lets you roll over any unused (not five talk time from one month to the next month, so you don't waste minutes you haven't used. And the best from Orange.

To join Orange call 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk



Bingham said judges should intervene more

Start a pension now then you can grow old disgracefully.

personal pension

Virgin direct

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends upon your own personal circumstances. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

hopping
green
safeguards
by credit
3434

3
ANT
36

Inquiry may call Major to explain Tory funding

Former leader changed rules, reports Valerie Elliott

JOHN MAJOR could face public questioning over claims that he allowed Conservative politicians to become directly involved in party fundraising.

Lord Neill, QC, the public standards watchdog, was deciding last night whether to summon Mr Major or to ask him for a written account of his reasons for changing the party fundraising structure after he became party leader.

The move came after comments made at the Neill inquiry by a former senior Conservative fundraiser, Major-General Sir Brian Wyldore-Smith said that action by Mr Major had broken down the "Chinese walls" that separated Tory treasurers and party donors from politicians.

Sir Brian, who served as director of the Conservative Board of Finance for 21 years until 1992, said that the party chairman was now in charge of fundraising, whereas in the past "senior treasurers would report to the party chairman once a month. But politicians largely kept out of it; it was embarrassing for them."

Asked by Anthony King, one of the inquiry team, whether the Chinese walls then crumbled, Sir Brian replied: "Collapsed".

Sir Brian said he did not know why the change had

been made. "The only reason would be to ask the Prime Minister at the time, it might be partly, I suspect, that he did not wish to get involved himself."

Mr Major was unavailable for comment yesterday but his Westminster aide said that the move had followed discussions with Sir Norman Fowler, who became party chairman after Chris Patten lost his parliamentary seat.

Sir Brian said he was unhappy about the new fundraising arrangements and had written to Lord Hambro, then senior party treasurer, warning him that fundraising worked well when treasurers were kept separate from politicians.

Asked about overseas donors, Sir Brian said he had been involved in fundraising mainly from wealthy expatriates with a British vote. "We had a certain amount of support from Hong Kong. It was a former colony full of businessmen who had enormous interest in this country from docks, banks and shipping lines, and they are only too keen to have a Conservative Government to benefit their own businesses."

"The ones we do not want are non-nationals. I can think of an example when people expressed an interest [to give

money] with no reason except to exert influence. We would not accept that. There was one who wanted to have a say in the choice of Secretary of State for Defence."

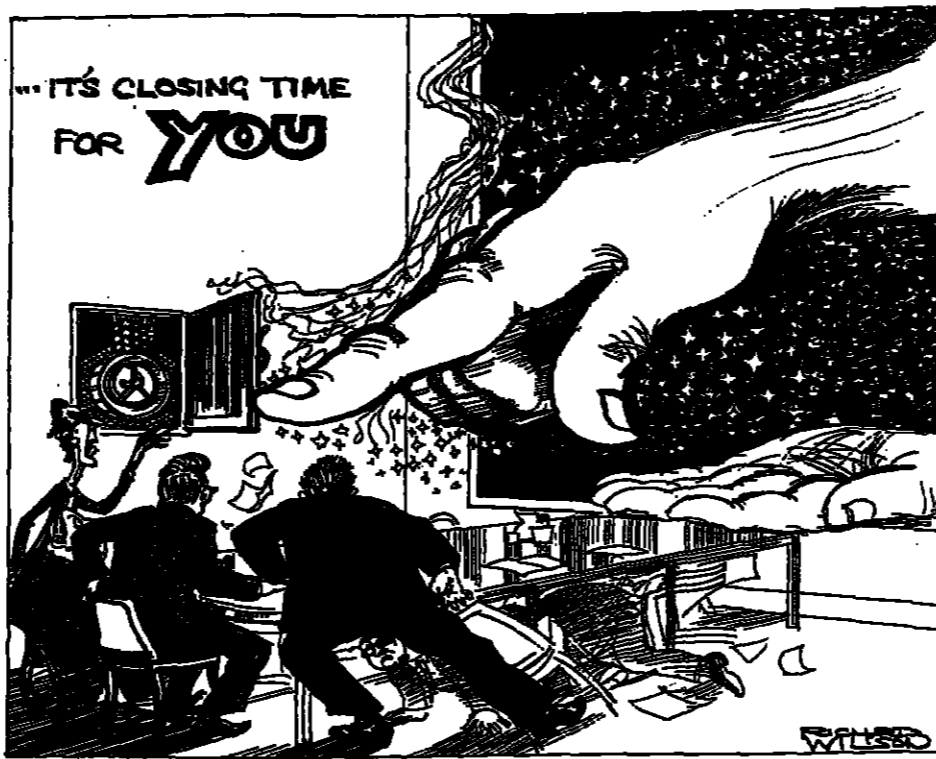
Outside the hearing Sir Brian said that he had turned down about six offers of about £1 million.

In his opening statement to the inquiry, Sir Brian had, however, said: "Over the period 1971 to 1992 the treasurers raised approximately £120 million, during which period there were practically no accusations levelled against our policy."

He also said he had appointed a network of former military officers to elicit donations. "In 1970, 80 per cent of company chairmen had done National Service and had a certain amount of regard for senior officers, whom they considered honest and motivated by their cause."

He also set up 11 industrial councils to channel ideas from local businessmen to Conservative Central Office and then to the relevant minister. But he said that businessmen did not have direct access to ministers.

He could think of "one or two" examples of people who wanted only to give money in return for influence. "But of course they weren't accepted."



Audit office granted access to lottery firm's accounts

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's spending watchdog has been given new powers to investigate the accounts of Camelot, the lottery operator, it was announced yesterday.

The National Audit Office will be given access to the company's records for the first time to ensure that the right amount of money is being paid to the five "good causes".

David Davis, the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee who has been pressing for increased power for the office, hailed the move as a step towards "greater trans-

parency and stronger parliamentary accountability" over the lottery.

There had been concern that the audit office had been unable to discover whether Camelot was paying the correct proportion of its profits into the National Lottery Distribution Fund. Although Oflot regulates the payments, the audit office has said that it had not carried out 11 out of 21 checks aimed at ensuring that the licence was being followed.

Mr Davis said: "The announcement is extremely good news for people who take part in the lottery and the good causes that benefit." He argued that the need for greater access to Camelot's accounts had been emphasised by the audit office in 1996. At the time the auditors said they were unable to check whether the right amount of money had been paid into the National Lottery Distribution Fund.

A Camelot spokesman said: "We have nothing to hide so it's not a problem for us."

The National Lottery Bill, which is at the committee stage, will be amended today to incorporate the new change.

Ready for a dance around the May poll

PREPARE to be confused. Today's English local elections are unlikely to produce a clear picture. There will be contradictory signals, allowing each party to claim progress, not least since they have been playing down expectations.

Labour is riding high now with 55 per cent of the vote, according to last week's MORI poll in *The Times*. This is unprecedented for a Government at this stage of the Parliament, and double the Tory share. Even in opposition, Labour never performed nearly as well as this in local elections, while the Liberal Democrats usually do much better than their poll ratings (now 14 per cent).

Moreover, most of the seats being contested today — throughout London, the 36 metropolitan districts (such as Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle), 88 shire districts and nine of the new unitary councils — were last fought in 1994, when Labour was doing very well. In that year, Labour won 40 per cent of the national vote, against 28 per cent for the Tories and 27 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, of Plymouth University, recently estimated, on the basis of local by-elections since the beginning of the year, that the implied Labour share was 40 per cent, against 33 per cent for the Conservatives and 23 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

If Labour gets more than 40 per cent, it will have done better than the Tories achieved in the Thatcher and Major years, apart from just before or after general elections. As John Curtice, of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends, has argued, anything less than that level will seem a disappointment and should worry Tony Blair.

The first news late tonight will be about seats, not vote shares, and the pattern will be complicated, because of a fragmented party system in local government. In some big cities, such as Sheffield and Liverpool, the Liberal Democrats have largely replaced the Tories as the main challenger to Labour. In

some shire districts, the main battle is between Tories and Lib Dems and, in others, such as in outer London boroughs, there are genuine three-way contests.

The Liberal Democrats may make gains from Labour in some urban areas, particularly where local councils have been hit by scandals, such as Doncaster, Hull and Hackney. However, the Lib Dems will be vulnerable to any Tory revival in the shire districts and the outer London boroughs. In some places, a shift from Lib Dem to Tory could result in Labour winning seats.

It is also often forgotten that, on May 1 last year, while the Tories were suffering their worst parliamentary result for more than one and a half centuries, they were gaining seats on county councils from the Lib Dems.

However, the Tories are not expected to make substantial gains this year. The Govern-

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

ment is too popular, the Tories are still consolidating rather than recovering and the party is weak on the ground in many places. The Tories are too far behind to win any metropolitan council, where one third of the seats are being contested. The party's real hope is to hold the councils it controls in London and, if there is a swing in its favour, to gain Brent and Barnet and deprive Labour of control of Croydon.

Labour's real worry is low turnout, as supporters stay at home out of apathy or disillusion with the Government. That explains why ministers have been banging the drum so loudly this week to encourage people to vote.

Although there will be a huge majority for the "yes" side in the referendum on a London mayor and assembly, the Government is worried that the one-sided campaign will affect turnout and, hence, the impact of the result. So the key may be how many people vote, as well as how they vote.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair rejects newspaper pricing amendment

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday rejected a Lords amendment to the Competition Bill aimed at banning price-cutting by newspapers, insisting that the move would stop any competition between papers.

The Prime Minister told MPs that the best way forward was to bring Britain's legislation into line with European law, which was what the Bill would do. He dismissed calls by Martin Bell, the Independent MP for Tatton, for a free vote on the issue

and made clear that the Government intended to overturn the amendment when the Bill returned to the Commons next week.

Mr Blair confirmed the Government's opposition to the Lords amendment, tabled by Lord McNally. But in an attempt to reassure Labour rebels, he insisted that the Bill "will allow us for the first time to investigate predatory pricing in a full way that the present legislation does not".

However, the amendment in the Lords "would actually mean that newspapers weren't allowed to com-

pete against each other at all. That would not be sensible."

Earlier Margaret Beckett also tried to reassure MPs that the Bill effectively prohibited price-cutting by newspapers. At a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, the President of the Board of Trade insisted that the Bill was much tougher than was widely realised. She said that Clause 60 of the Bill made clear that the Government would accept European Union jurisdiction on the subject.

A recent ruling in Brussels banned the practice of price-cutting by

insisting that any newspaper group that consistently lowered its cover price below its average variable costs, and was dominant in the market, would be in breach of the law. There would not have to be any proof that the practice of lowering the papers' cover price was designed to drive competitors out of the market. Mrs Beckett told MPs that The Tetra Pak Judgment, as it has been called, would now apply to British law.

Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry said that, if any newspaper group or any other business appeared to be in breach of this

judgment, it would be referred to the Director-General of Fair Trading for a ruling. Some MPs seemed reassured by Mrs Beckett's comments on Clause 60. "Either the Government has deliberately kept this under wraps because it did not want to upset Mr Murdoch [the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*], or they have only just realised this is what the Bill does," said one Labour rebel. But some MPs still threatened to try to put forward their own amendment at the final stages of the Bill.

1
2 price
nd line.

Whether it's teenagers keeping up with their friends, children discovering the internet, or you working from home, these days one phone line just isn't enough.

That's why BT will now install a second line for half price - just £58.17.

What's more, both of your lines can benefit from the

BT discounts that you may already have, like Friends & Family and PremierLine.

The offer runs from April 1st to June 30th. To order, just visit www.2ndLines.bt.com, or fight your way to your existing telephone and call us on

Freefone 0800 22 22 99. **BT It's good to talk**

APPLIES TO CUSTOMERS OPERATING A BROADBAND RESIDENTIAL ANALOGUE EXCHANGE LINE AT THE SAME ADDRESS. LINE RENTAL APPLIES. EARNIING PERIOD IS 12 MONTHS. DISCOUNTS MUST BE BILLED TO THE SAME ACCOUNT.

INDIA'S LIVING national symbol is in very real danger of being extinguished within the next ten years.

In 1972 the known number of Indian tigers had plummeted to under 2000.

The government quickly responded and set up reserves throughout the country.

By 1984 the tiger population had doubled. Unfortunately after this success came government complacency and greed.

Tiger reserves are being pressurised by industrialisation and illegal timber extraction, whilst poaching is again rife.

On average, one tiger is killed every day. The bones and skins of a quarter of the tiger population have recently been illegally sold in the East.

Yet dealers and poachers that are caught often find themselves released within 24 hours, free to kill again. Despite this crisis the Indian Board for Wildlife has not met since 1988.

If you want to know how you can put pressure on the Indian Government, ring 01273 299 894 now for your free Tiger Campaign pack.

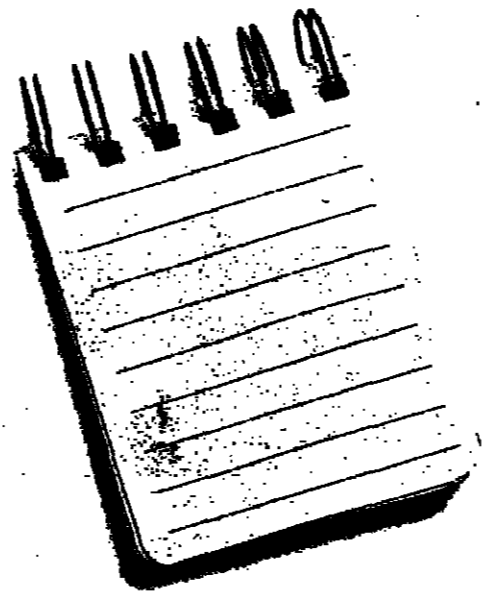
Then you can tell them you don't want the tiger to die out.

INDIA'S LIVING NATIONAL SYMBOL?



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY
TEL: 0173 490 7040 OR VIEW OUR INTERNET SITE [HTTP://WWW.PAIR.COM/EIA/](http://WWW.PAIR.COM/EIA/)

سكزا من الأصل



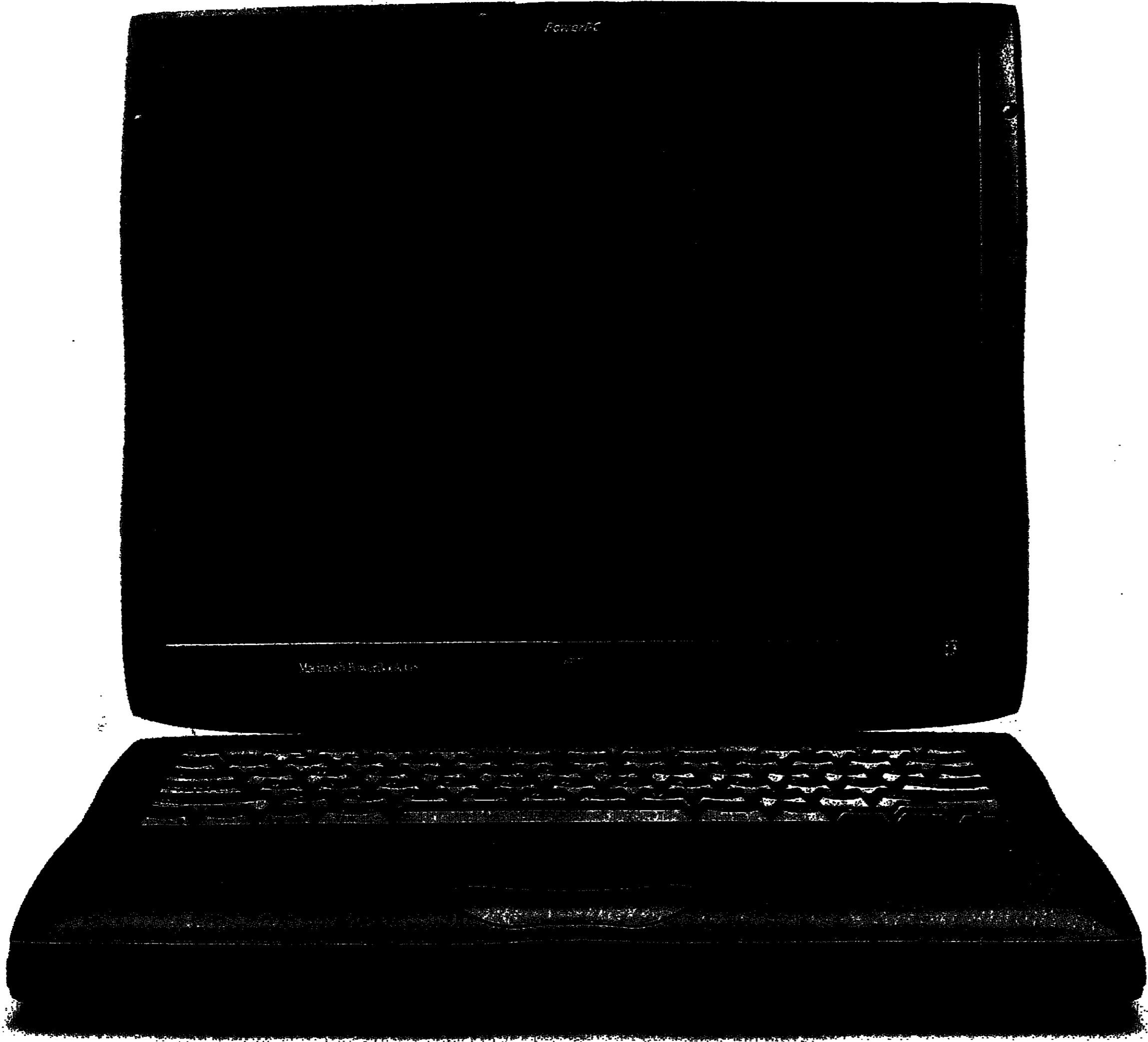
Think different.



Really different.



We rewrote the book.



Presenting the new PowerBook G3.



It's been rethought and re-engineered from cover to cover. It's sleek. It's intelligent. It's endlessly adaptable. It's Apple. Oh, and one other thing...You're looking at the fastest notebook computer in the world. Did we say "fastest"? Its 292 MHz super-fast PowerPC G3 chip, is up to three times faster than any other PC notebook processor.* With two expansion bays, two PC Card slots, built-in Ethernet and a choice of spacious screens, up to 14.1 inches (measured diagonally), it can be anything from a presentation dream machine to a mobile design studio. With batteries that give you a total of up to 7 hours of thinking, it's ideal for today's quick-acting mobile professionals. The new Macintosh PowerBook G3. Where rocket science

A different notebook. meets computer science.

*In BYTEmark integer index scores.

مكتبة من الأصل

We

All a



A differen

We're opening millions of new stores.



All at one address: www.apple.com/uk

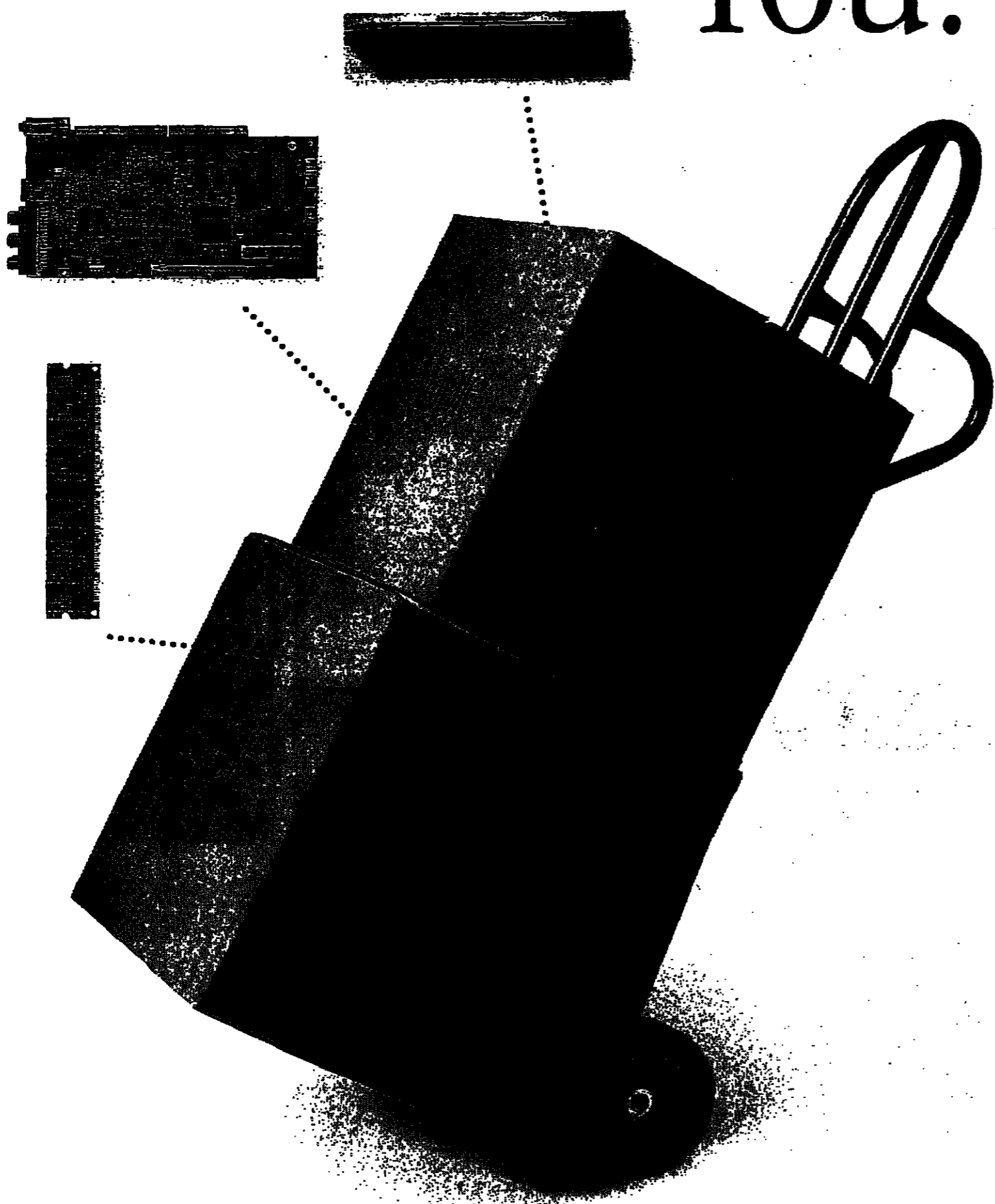


A different store.

Now buying an Apple is as easy as using it. With free parking, helpful staff and no queuing, the Apple Store is on-line 24 hours a day. A friendly, warm place where you can enjoy the convenience of internet shopping. You can browse all you like and study spec sheets to your heart's content. Need assistance? No problem. You'll find plenty of on-screen answers, directions and suggestions. Once you've made your selections, simply click on over to the cashier. Simply order your products and we'll ship them directly to your doorstep*. With the addition of The Apple Store you now have three great ways to purchase Apple products: over the Web, over the phone or from your expert Apple Reseller. The Apple Store. The right products, the right prices, the right expertise.

*UK address only.

Now look who's running the factory. You.



Not everyone wants the same things from a computer. So why put the same things in them? At The Apple Store, you can configure your dream computer. It allows us to better tailor your Macintosh to fit your unique style of working. Say you're a serious multi-tasker, for instance. We can load you up with as much as 384MB of memory - enough to keep several applications open at the same time. Or maybe you're a multimedia fanatic. An internal Zip drive could give your creativity all the space it needs. There are hundreds of possibilities. The Apple Store can help you arrive at the one that's perfect for you. Of course, the best way to appreciate The Apple Store is to see it for yourself.

www.apple.com/uk



A different factory.

With our new generation of Macs, new ways to build them and new ways to buy them, we're fundamentally changing the way we do business. Without losing sight of why we do business: to make the best tools for people who think creatively.



Think different.

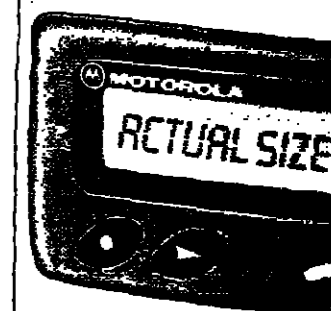
© 1998 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the logo, Macintosh and PowerBook are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. The Apple Store and Think different are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. PowerPC is a trademark of IBM Corp., used under license therefrom.

THE TIMES
Lloyd
SCO
classic



Building
worker sto

Introducing
UK's sma
ever pag



MOTOROLA
ACTUAL SIZE

PAGEONE
MINI
Available at Comet, The L...
John Lewis Department Stores...
For further information: Free

هكذا من الأصل

Lloyd Webbers scorned in classical dispute

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING American pianist and scholar has made a scathing attack on the cellist Julia Lloyd Webber and taken a jibeswipe at his composer brother Andrew in a dispute over avant-garde and populist music.

Claim by the cellist that "ruthless avant-garde music" had led to a decline in classical work was ridiculed by Charles Rosen as absurd. Mr Rosen said he had "never heard anyone whistle a tune by Andrew Lloyd Webber".

Mr Rosen, a virtuoso concert pianist who studied with a pupil of Liszt, is the author of the hugely influential books *The Classical Style* and *The Romantic Generation*. Writing in the latest issue of *The New York Review of Books*, he says that a speech by the cellist last February at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, was "ludicrous". The cellist had spoken of "the Führers of the classical music establishment for

whom tonality and harmony had become dirty words". He went on: "In the years after the war, Western classical music created a pernicious politburo. In America, composers like Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber found themselves dismissed as dated."

In fact, Mr Rosen says, "both Copland and Barber were performed from 1945 to 1975 with much greater frequency in the United States than any of the more 'radical' composers like Elliott Carter. Lloyd Webber makes it seem as if it were easy to hear the works of modernist composers during this period, as if the public could not escape their dread dissonances. Of course, just the opposite is true."

"The difficulty of contemporary music, art and literature, Mr Rosen observes, is often 'foolishly ascribed' to an attempt of the artist to direct his work entirely to professionals: "On the contrary, composers, artists and writers have always wanted popular success — but on their own terms. Music has indeed become less whistleable or hummable. I have heard friends whistle or hum tunes by George Gershwin or Harold Arlen, but I have never heard anyone whistle a tune by Andrew Lloyd Webber; perhaps I move in the wrong circles."

He notes how Mozart was considered difficult or "even repulsive" in his day: "His easier and more popular contemporaries, Paisiello and Puccini, are only musicological memories now." Drawing on a literary analogy, Mr

Rosen points to James Joyce's *Ulysses* as a difficult masterpiece: "After the initial repugnance for much of the book experienced by a great many readers, most of us succeeded in the end in deriving great pleasure from all of it."

"Similarly, in the history of music from Bach to the present, by repeated listening we have learnt to love the music that has at first puzzled and even repelled us."

"Listener-friendly music — to use the current term — may not inspire noisy protests, but it also arouses no enthusiasms. The true stumbling block is that few musicians have any passionate urge to play or hear that kind of music."

Barenboim marathon, page 36



The former javelin thrower Fatima Whitbread and her ten-week-old son, Ryan, at a masterclass for young athletes at Southend, Essex, yesterday



Rosen: "Perhaps I move in the wrong circles"

Building society worker stole £1/2 m

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A BUILDING society supervisor went on a spending spree involving gambling, drinking, expensive cars and foreign holidays after stealing nearly £500,000 from his employers.

Dennis Capstick, 37, from Keigley, West Yorkshire, began stealing small amounts in late 1994 from the Bradford & Ngley building society after becoming embittered over his £11,500 salary. He was a section leader in the mortgage arrears department.

He drew cheques from a fund set up for mortgages but made them payable to a firm he had set up himself, called Deli; Kappa Associates. In

all, he drew 110 cheques, amounting to £469,926.

He was jailed for three and a half years by a judge at Bradford Crown Court yesterday after admitting theft.

Andrew Dallas, for the prosecution, told the court that Capstick used the money to spend up to £2,000 a night in casinos. He drank up to two bottles of vodka a day. He bought a BMW with a friend and set up offshore accounts.

He resigned in August last year and, unable to cover his tracks, he walked into a police station carrying £51,000 in cash. He has now repaid £116,000.

Home Insurance. We guarantee 1/3rd back.

Good news for you and your home! Insure your home with British Gas Home Insurance and, whatever your existing premium, **we'll guarantee* to give you 1/3rd back** for you to use to cut the cost of your British Gas bill or to **save money** on other British Gas products and services. Alternatively, you may choose to select valuable Goldfish points, redeemable against a wide range of everyday essentials.

Peace of mind, quality cover.

More good news! Your buildings and/or contents policy will be tailor-made for you and will match the sums insured of your existing cover. Additionally, you'll benefit from extensive new-for-old cover, accidental damage cover, a FREE 24 hour emergency helpline and even cover when you're away from home.

No need to wait for renewal, call now.

So why wait to get 1/3rd back guaranteed*? Save now! Just complete and return the coupon below or call FREE, quoting the 1/3rd back code which appears below, on **0800 9 15 14 13**. We're waiting to take your call.



POST THE COUPON TODAY OR CALL FREE ON 0800 9 15 14 13

Please remember to have your current insurance documents to hand. Lines open 8.00am-9.00pm weekdays, 9.00am-5.00pm Saturdays. *N.B. Offer subject to Privilege Insurance's underwriting criteria. Full terms and conditions available on request.

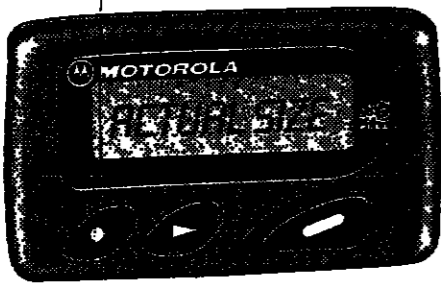
Form with fields for Name (Mr, Mrs, Ms), Address, Postcode, Daytime Tel, Evening Tel, Best time to call, Preferred month, Building type, Contents, and Insurance code (TMSA). Includes the British Gas Home Insurance logo.

British Gas
Home Insurance

An idea you'll want to

British Gas
Home Insurance

Introducing the UK's smallest ever pager.



The new MiniText pager from PageOne MiniCall is the smallest, most desirable pager in the UK. Featuring the latest FLEX™ technology to give better performance and up to 5 times longer battery life than conventional pager technology. With no contracts, connection charges or monthly bills. Ever. Available in 5 colours for just **£79.99**.

PAGEONE **MINIcall**

Available at: Comet, The Link, Dixons, Curry's Superstores, John Lewis Department Stores, Tandy and other PageOne authorised dealers.

For further information FreeCall 0500 505 505
Visit our Website: <http://www.pageone.co.uk>

Costs for text message pagers are charged to the caller at the page rate (20p/min, 1000ms Max/Pk). Can not be used on mobile phones, mobile phones, mobile cards, major other networks unless existing rates and may be subject to network approval.

100 feared dead as mudslides hit south Italy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

UP TO 100 Italians were feared dead in a series of mudslides set off by freak heavy rains in the southern region of Campania yesterday. As hundreds of troops joined in the rescue effort, regional authorities and the Italian Government were accused of failing to take steps to prevent the disaster.

At least 25 people were confirmed dead while 70 others were listed as missing and feared dead and about 800 were made homeless. Houses, apartment blocks, cars and fire engines were swept away in rivers of mud that streaked through the towns of Sarno, Siano and Bracigliano in the province of Salerno and the town of Quindici in the province of Avellino. About 2,000 people had to be evacuated in Sarno, the worst-hit town, after landslides on two mountains, Mount Sarno and Mount Le Porthe, turned to mud.

"The mountain opened up in five places and a sea of mud poured down like lava," explained one of the rescue workers.

The region had been doused with heavy rainfall over the previous six days.

Rescue workers used 18 helicopters to scour the stricken area for survivors. Among the deads and missing were patients and doctors at the Sarno hospital, which was engulfed by a wave of mud.

The rising death toll prompted authorities to point the finger at past corruption in local government which

allowed property development in areas of high risk. Campania is prone to landslides, which have killed 372 people over the past 50 years.

Fausto Bertinotti, the leader of the left-wing Rifondazione Comunista party, said the Government of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, and the regional administration were to blame for the mudslides as they had not carried out preventive work after five landslides last year killed 20 people in Campania.

Luigi Anzalone, the president of the government of Avellino province, said: "For two years neither the Government nor the region of Campania have done anything in this area. Now we see the usual spectacle of people kicking around the responsibility."

Ecological groups, including the World Wide Fund for Nature and Italy's Legambiente, said that the disaster was not a natural calamity but a disaster caused by decades of ransacking the

land and sprawling construction".

Among those criticised was Franco Barberi, the Undersecretary for Civil Defence, who replied that there had been delays in making available 53 billion lire (£17 million) earmarked by authorities in Rome for work in Campania.

Seven people died in Sarno and there were reports of 50 people missing.

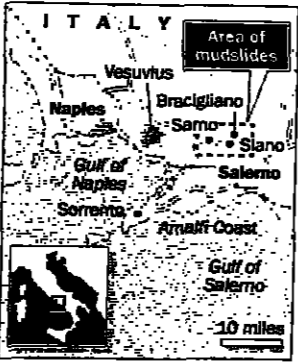
Four people died when they were carried away by a mudslide at Siano.

The bodies of a 34-year-old woman and her three children aged between four and 12 were washed out into a street in Bracigliano early yesterday after a mudslide hit the village the previous night, the authorities said. Another two people were reported to have died in the village.

Landslides and flooding left five dead and several missing in Quindici while at San Felice a Cancellò, near Caserte, a 73-year-old woman was crushed to death in her home by a flood of mud and stones.

About 65 per cent of Italy is classed as being at risk from landslides. The worst disaster of this kind on record happened in Campania in 1954, when heavy rains brought mass landslides which killed 205 people and made another 5,466 homeless.

Luigi Manfredi, a senator for the opposition Forza Italia party, called for a parliamentary commission of inquiry to be opened into the state of civil protection in Italy.



A police car and other vehicles swept away by a mudslide block a road in Sarno

Chirac lays siege to Kohl with a foie gras feast

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AVIGNON

In a diplomatic and gastronomic effort to make amends to the German Chancellor, President Chirac opened a tense Franco-German summit in Avignon last night by treating the famously hungry Herr Kohl to a challenging banquet of foie gras and truffles.

Last weekend's row over the presidency of the European Central Bank and the resulting political damage to the Chancellor has strained Franco-German relations. But France has apparently decided that the best way to win back a place in Herr Kohl's heart is via his stomach.

The Chancellor has made no secret of his anger over the way M Chirac blocked a full term for the Dutch Central Bank candidate Wim Duisenberg, to make way for the French banker Jean-Claude Trichet. But last night both sides were eager to show — over a remarkable array of Provençal produce — that any temporary differences had now been patched up.

The meal, held at the Hôtel de Ville and crafted by three celebrated local chefs, began with calves' brains and truffles, a delicacy to which both leaders are particularly partial.

This was followed by another traditional dish not for the faint-hearted — pigs' trotters stuffed with foie gras, washed down with local Côtes du Rhône wine. The cheese course was followed by chocolate cake, which contained yet more truffles.

The Elysée Palace even

demanding that the bread rolls should be "extra crunchy" — a job that fell to Fournil des Papes, Avignon's most famous bakery, according to the local newspaper *Vaucluse Matin*, which obtained details of the secret menu.

Both President and Chancellor are dedicated trenchermen, who may disagree over who should preside over Europe's Central Bank but who share a passion for hefty country cuisine. One French official remarked last night: "There is nothing like a good blowout for cooling down a family row."

The display of Gallic hospitality was carefully scripted to show that the Franco-German alliance is not, as one German opposition MP claimed yesterday, "in a state of crisis". But despite the handshakes and smiles in the sunshine outside the papal palace in Avignon, both sides know it will take more than a few bottles of Châteaufort du Pape to mend this schism.

In their attempt to assuage Herr Kohl's anger by tackling his hunger, French diplomats may have overlooked an important point: the Chancellor has just completed a slimming course, determined to prove that at 68 he is still a streamlined politician. When he wakes this morning and considers the pounds he has recently shed and the calories consumed last night, he may well go into today's Franco-German discussions even crosser than before.

Dutch vote for Labour increases

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch Labour Party appeared to be coasting to victory in the general election yesterday. Polls predicted that the left-wing party would win between 45 and 50 seats, a gain of six to 13.

Labour will be by far the biggest party, giving it a strong hand in negotiations on a new coalition. No party has yet gained an outright majority in The Netherlands, but Wim Kok, the Prime Minister, enjoys cross-party support with 80 per cent of voters expressing trust in him.

Turnout was well down on that of 1994.

Eta plot to murder Juan Carlos foiled

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

A PLOT to assassinate King Juan Carlos of Spain has been foiled by police who captured six gunmen from Eta, the armed Basque separatist group, in the northern city of San Sebastián.

News of the plot came yesterday as Eta continued its campaign against local politicians by killing Tomás Caballero, a city councillor in Pamplona. Señor Caballero was a member of a regionalist party in Navarre that is allied to the Popular Party of José María Aznar, the Prime Minister.

The six gunmen captured at the weekend had been planning to kill the King this

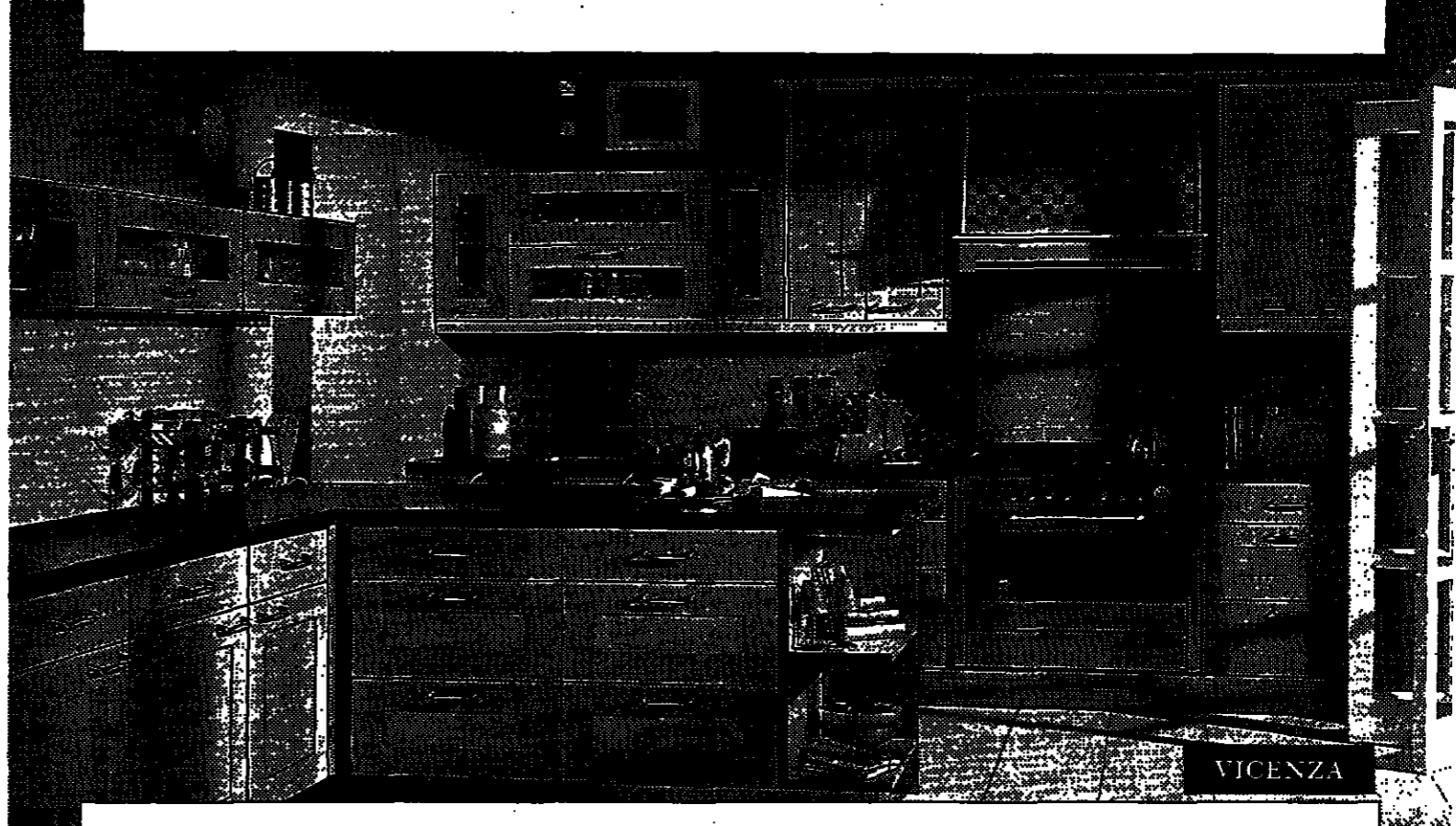
summer during an expected trip to San Sebastián, according to sources at the Interior Ministry. The plan involved planting a bomb along the route that the royal cavalcade would have taken to the opening of a new aquarium on August 15.

The gunmen were captured while preparing to launch mortar bombs against a police barracks in Loyola, near San Sebastián. Eta has plotted to kill King Juan Carlos at least three times. The last attempt was in August 1995, when an Eta marksman got as far as training his sights on the monarch in the port at Palma, on the island of Majorca.

A BRAND NEW WAY TO SAVE 30%*

plus 20% OFF ALL APPLIANCES

MUST END SATURDAY 5PM†



(plus £250 WORTH OF FREE HOLIDAY VOUCHERS**)

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 30% off* introductory offer on the new Vicenza kitchen range plus 40% off* most other Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabinets, plus 20% off all appliances, we'll even give you £250 worth of holiday vouchers absolutely free**. There are some great offers on Whirlpool and Hoover appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone 0800 192 192 for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code T132.

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

Lombard Direct
THE PERSONAL LOAN SERVICE

WE HAVE A FIXED POLICY ON PERSONAL LOAN RATES.

12.9%
11.9%
13.9%

FOR A LOAN FROM £800 TO £15,000 SIMPLY CALL 0800-2-15000* AND QUOTE REFERENCE NO. 4721790

ONE CALL TO LOMBARD DIRECT AND YOU'RE LAUGHING
0800-2-15000
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK

*Typical repayment: £200 per month for 24 months. Repayment of £200 per month for 24 months would result in a total repayment of £4,800. This is based on a loan of £2,000 at 12.9% APR. Repayment of £200 per month for 24 months would result in a total repayment of £4,800. This is based on a loan of £2,000 at 12.9% APR. Repayment of £200 per month for 24 months would result in a total repayment of £4,800. This is based on a loan of £2,000 at 12.9% APR.

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm. Selected branches open until 8.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-4.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details. *Discount on kitchen is off price charged between 26th November and 25th December 1997. Discounts on bedrooms are off price to be charged after 25th May 1998. †Applies to appliances not already discounted in the current kitchen and bedroom price guide when you spend £1,000 or more on a kitchen purchase. **Applies to a holiday to be booked through Travel Design Ltd with selected ABTA approved operators, outside the UK, when you spend £2,500 or more on a kitchen purchase or £2,000 or more on a bedroom purchase.

Watergate echo raised by ruling on Clinton aides

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ECHOES of Watergate returned to haunt the White House yesterday after a federal judge rejected President Clinton's use of executive privilege to shield senior aides from questions about his alleged affair with Monica Lewinsky.

The ruling will allow prosecutors to question Bruce Lindsey, for decades the President's closest confidant and troubleshooter, and Sidney Blumenthal, a senior strategist, about Mr Clinton's relationship with the former trainee and the White House response to it.

Seen as a victory for Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, the decision addresses one of the largest legal issues hanging over his Whitewater investigation and sets the stage for one of the most important battles over presidential power since the Supreme Court ordered Richard Nixon to surrender the Watergate tapes in 1974.

Mr Clinton is the first President since his Republican predecessor to take a claim of executive privilege to court and lose. If, like Mr Nixon, he decides to pursue an appeal at the Supreme Court, Mr Clinton faces the dual embarrassment of further rejection and the probability of a prolonged political assault from leading Republicans. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has already accused the White House of Nixonian tactics.

The President had invoked both executive privilege, a prerogative traditionally designed to protect sensitive conversations with aides about matters of national security, and lawyer-client privilege to prevent Mr Starr from questioning his closest aides.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson dismissed both claims, rejecting the latter on the ground that Mr Clinton should not be allowed to use government-paid White

House lawyers to defend a criminal investigation. Mr Clinton had also tried to shield conversations between his wife and White House advisers.

The row over executive privilege has been one of the main hurdles in Mr Starr's investigation of whether Mr Clinton lied under oath about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky and later asked her to do the same.

His victory is the latest in a string of successes for the prosecutor in recent days, coming at a time when his fortunes and personal standing had reached their lowest ebb.

Since last week Webster Hubbell, the former associate attorney-general, has been indicted on tax charges; Susan McDougal, the Clintons' former Whitewater partner, on criminal contempt charges; while a judge has ruled that Ms Lewinsky must testify without immunity.

Although the grand jury in Little Rock concluded its term this week, its sister panel has

intensified the questioning of those with inside knowledge of the alleged affair.

Vernon Jordan, the President's golfing partner who found a job for Ms Lewinsky after her alleged affair, appeared for the third time, while Betty Currie, the Oval Office gatekeeper who received a box of gifts allegedly given to the trainee by Mr Clinton, was called again yesterday.

The White House now has ten days to file a notice of appeal in the latest privilege ruling.

While some Republican strategists believe that the decision is disastrous for the President and will bring an end to White House delaying tactics, experts argue that Mr Clinton, whose popularity remains undented despite increasing Republican attacks, may try to prolong the fight with lengthy arguments before the Supreme Court.

"If the President wants to be hard-nosed and Ken Starr is unwilling to compromise, there could be at least a year's delay," said Paul Rothstein, a law professor at Georgetown University. "The President, if he wants to, could stall this decision, maybe through the next presidential election."

Mr Clinton is attempting to assert further legal privilege to block unfettered questioning of Secret Service personnel who may have observed Ms Lewinsky in or around the Oval Office. A decision on that issue, one without legal precedent, is pending.

Cast of thousands: Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia has broken his own record by casting his 15,000th vote. "I still feel a sense of pride when I walk through those chambers and stand on the Senate floor," the 80-year-old Democrat said on Tuesday. Mr Byrd entered the Senate in January 1959. (AP)



Sidney Blumenthal: he has lost his immunity

US joy as bald eagle comes off wildlife danger list

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE bald eagle, peregrine falcon and grey wolf are among 29 animal and plant species taken off the endangered list yesterday by the US Government, signalling one of the most heart-warming conservation success stories in America since the Endangered Species Act came into force a quarter of a century ago.

Announcing the triumph in Gill, Massachusetts, yesterday, Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, said: "Some of the proposed delistings, like the American bald eagle we honour today, embody symbolism and capture the public imagination."

Other species, he said lyrically, such as the elusive Virginia northern flying squirrel or the lowly Missouri bladder-pod, "are less charismatic but just as ecologically essential... And all are equal members of God's creation". Speaking near a tree, in which were a pair of bald eagles and a fluffy, three-week-old eaglet, Mr Babbitt declared: "We can now prove one thing conclusively — the Endangered Species Act works."

Although the eagle, the falcon and the wolf are the most glamorous of the species declared no longer endangered, there are others. They include the Aleutian Canada goose, Columbian white-tailed deer, Guam broadbill, Mariana mallard, Hawaiian hawk, brown pelican, Dismal Swamp southern shrew, Oahu tree snail, Island night lizard and the Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish.

Although yesterday's delisting was the most comprehensive in the Act's 25-year history, there are still 446 animals and 669 plants recorded as endangered or threatened. Eighty-five spe-



America's symbol was reduced because of pesticides to only 400 nesting pairs

cies were added in the past year alone, and protection is expected to be extended to an equal number again next year. There are about 245 species awaiting the endangered classification, and yesterday's delisting should ease the "conservation traffic jam". Also, by removing so many species, the US Fish and Wildlife Service can redirect scarce resources to those plants and animals deemed to be in more imminent danger.

There is no question, however, that the bald eagle's recovery is being seen as a wider American metaphor.

Declared endangered in 1967, when reduced to 400 nesting pairs, its growing numbers have shown that man can reverse the effects of his destructive habits.

John Clarke, the advocacy director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, said yesterday: "The bald eagle served as the canary in the coal-mine, in that it's a highly sensitive animal. When the bald eagle went into decline, it was a warning signal that our environment was in danger."

Unregulated use of the pesticide DDT was largely responsible for wiping out

whole colonies of the eagle and other birds, weakening eggshells so they were crushed in the nest. The pesticide's ban brought a steady growth in the bald eagle population, and there are now more than 5,000 nesting pairs.

The recovery of the peregrine falcon, too, can be seen as another high-profile victory. All but eradicated from the Eastern states by the mid-1960s, and virtually wiped out in the West by 1975, there are now about 1,500 pairs, thanks mainly to captive breeding programmes and the DDT ban.

Ellen tells of desire to marry lesbian partner

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE lesbian comedy star Ellen DeGeneres has declared that she wants to marry her girlfriend, the actress Anne Heche, and have children.

Lesbian marriages are not recognised in America, so the law would appear to be a more daunting obstacle to the fulfilment of her desires than biology. The latter poses no problem in this age of *in vitro* fertilisation, and the only question facing the couple is to decide on the man who will donate his sperm.

Ms DeGeneres told Diane Sawyer on ABC television that Ms Heche — the dominant partner in the relationship — "popped the question earlier this year". Ms DeGeneres said yes "instantly".

The couple will now redouble their efforts on behalf of a campaign for same-sex marriages, and intend to marry as soon as the law permits them to. Ms DeGeneres, 40, said: "We'll be the first ones in line." Ms Heche, 28, who was also present at the interview, said that their commitment to each other could be gauged from the fact that she had just given Ms DeGeneres a second friendship ring.

Ms Heche, who has shrugged off rumours that she recently had a heterosexual affair with a male starlet, said: "I think every year we should add another ring. Our relationship is for ever and ever." Here, Ms DeGeneres interjected: "It's for ever, yeah."

Ms DeGeneres expressed bitterness over the recent decision by ABC to axe her comedy show, regarded by some critics as too gay for prime-time America. The network said the show was dropped because of low ratings.

Ellen came under powerful scrutiny after the episode, screened almost exactly a year ago, when the eponymous character played by Ms DeGeneres "came out" on air, making her the first openly gay lead in a television series.

THE TIMES

Nav cap sacri

Confidem

Explained for the rock star The Sun

THE SUNDAY

india

TRAVEL FIRST CLASS

Galaxy Ghia X 2.3i 16v, £21,520. The Ford Galaxy range from £17,520. For more information call 0345 833 833.

مكتبة من الأصل



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on allergies; chronic fatigue syndrome; pesticides; baldness and folic acid

Time for hay fever sufferers to reach for relief

Oil seed rape has been planted for centuries, but it is only in the past 15 years or so that there has been an outcry each spring as the electric yellow flowers cover the countryside.

The British Medical Journal recently devoted its lead editorial to discussing why such a relatively harmless plant is blamed for so much ill health. It is only in Britain that Brassica napus is cited by the regulators as the cause of their sore throats, headaches, sleeplessness, depression, not to mention the traditional signs and symptoms of allergic rhinitis (hay fever).

Rape flower blamed for everything from sore throats to depression

Although rape pollen allergy does exist, it is relatively uncommon and people affected by it already suffer from other allergies, in particular aversion to birch and grass. The interaction between rape seed and birch and grass pollens not only makes the patient more sensitive to rape seed, but rape seed makes them more sensitive to the other two pollens.



The incidence of hay fever among the young is growing; one in six complains of suffering the debilitating symptoms

they could account for coughs, headaches and wheezing in the areas where the plant is grown. The link is a tenuous one which, to be relevant, would demand higher concentrations of these chemicals than is found at present.

It has also been suggested that farmers who grow oil seed rape are possibly of the type who tend to saturate their crops with pesticides, but evidence shows that no more agro-chemicals are used in cultivating it than are employed in other farming enterprises.

Hay fever cannot be cured, but its symptoms can be kept at bay by the use of antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents and nasal decongestants. The antihistamines have improved enormously over recent years. They can be taken

less frequently as they have a longer action, and the modern ones are very free of side effects, including sleepiness and irritability. The anti-inflammatory sprays prevent attacks and should be used regularly throughout the hay fever season. Rapid relief of symptoms can be derived by using a decongestant nasal spray.

Is ME real or in the mind

George Beard, the 19th-century doctor, started his account of neurasthenia, published in 1869, with the words, "fatigue is the Central Africa of medicine, an unexplored territory which few men enter".

Dr Simon Wessely, Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in London, and Dr Michael Sharpe, of the University of Edinburgh, start their own book, Chronic Fatigue and its Syndromes, with Dr Beard's observation. These three psychiatrists have made a special study of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), sometimes referred to as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME).

In 1956, an outbreak of ME attacked staff at the Royal Free

The book deals with the way in which fatigue, in all its many forms, may frustrate the patient. It analyses its relationship to a host of other symptoms associated with CFS, examines the evidence which could suggest an organic cause, and gives detailed advice on the best way for doctors to treat CFS patients.

The book is that CFS cannot easily be categorised into either physical or psychiatric medicine, but crosses the boundaries between the two. Studying CFS gives the authors a wonderful opportunity to chronicle the way in which medicine and society have developed over the past 150 years.

that today would be criminal as well as politically incorrect. But they were the planks on which much of mainstream medical thought rested. The arguments about the causes of neurasthenia which divided doctors, and society, at the end of the Victorian era were every bit as savage as those that would be encountered on an Esther Rantzen programme about ME today.

Neurasthenia was originally a disease which, almost by definition, could only affect hard-working members of the officer class, probably rendered sleepless by the noise of battles in which they had fought, or tired out by governing the Empire. Later, it sank in social prestige and became, in the view of the Victorian doctor, an excuse of the "worthless poor" who had neither the ability nor desire to work.

After the demise of neurasthenia as an acceptable diagnosis in the first decade of the 20th century, fatigue syndromes ceased to be a source of contention. Patients who complained of overwhelming fatigue, muscle pain and sleeplessness were not given a particular label, but were described as suffering from chronic nervous exhaustion. Everything changed in 1956, when an outbreak of ME attacked staff at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Chronic Fatigue and its Syndromes by Simon Wessely, Matthew Hotopf and Michael Sharpe. Oxford University Press, £65

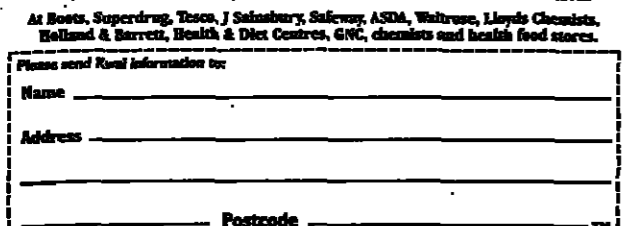
Check your blood pressure

Enjoying a long and active life depends on keeping your heart and circulation healthy. There are many ways to watch you can help yourself, including keeping an eye on your blood pressure, stopping smoking, watching what you eat and taking regular exercise.

Why check your blood pressure? It's important to have blood pressure checked routinely, especially as you get older. This painless test lets the doctor measure how hard your heart is having to work to pump blood around the body. Then this is compared with the normal range for someone your age, as it is quite usual for blood pressure to vary from person to person.

Living with your blood pressure Blood pressure can be affected by physical activity and emotional factors, like feeling stressed. So learn to relax, and take exercise at a pace that suits you.

Could garlic help? By following these simple steps, researchers suggest you can help to keep your blood pressure normal. You could also try taking a garlic tablet, as a number of recently published studies indicate that garlic (Kwai), when taken regularly as part of your fitness plan, could help, too.



To receive more information please complete the form below and return to Kwai, PO Box 383, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1AD, or call 01494 43377

Pesticides and fertility

PESTICIDES are of widely varying toxicity. The organochlorine pesticides, used in agriculture, are particularly harmful. The most recent development has been Kwai ACE, combining Kwai garlic with three important antioxidants: vitamins A, C and E to create an advanced - possibly the ultimate - once-a-day healthcare supplement.

On the other hand, nobody doubts the potential toxicity of organophosphates if they are carelessly used. In overdose they can give rise to nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea; they can affect the heart, cause urinary incontinence, convulsions and even death.

One of the ills frequently attributed to modern farming methods is a decline in fertility. Fecundity is often assessed by recording the time it takes couples to conceive after halting contraception.

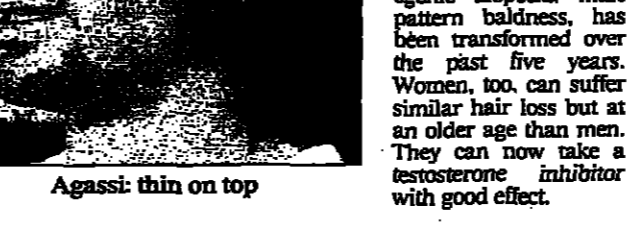
The Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the British Medical Journal have carried reports of a large study in Denmark that recorded the number of menstrual periods the wives of farmers had before they conceived. Research workers found that there was no difference between organic farmers and those who used chemicals. The BMJ warns that it is hard to prove a negative. Farmers anxious about continuity of land ownership would therefore be wise to obey the instructions on the use of pesticides.

Hair restorers found by accident

SHOULD William Hague be taking Proscar, rubbing Regaine into his scalp, or should he be visiting his nearest Chinese doctor to be given some licorice flower root with wolf berry and Chinese angelica root?

People agonise over baldness. It is more than the end of youth and machismo, for the aesthetic completeness. There is new hope, however, for all those men whose power to charm the voters, or the opposite sex, is challenged by their bare scalp.

A research worker at Merck Sharp and Dohme, the manufacturers of Proscar finasteride, made the chance discovery that taking this drug not only shrunk the prostate but in some cases improved hair growth.



Agassi: thin on top

WOULD-BE young mothers, their middle-aged fathers fearful of a heart attack, and grandparents fighting an inability to remember the names of their neighbours are all wondering whether they should take folic acid.

Folic acid is now widely recognised as the vitamin that can prevent many abnormalities in unborn children and as such mothers and mothers-in-law, anxious to drop a hint that a grandchild would not come amiss, have started to give their daughter's leaflets about it.

MEN and the MENOPAUSE

TECHNICALLY the word is Andropause. The symptoms include: Loss of Libido; Aches & Pains; Lack of Vitality; Night Sweats; Depression; Irritability; Tiredness & Loss of Energy. If you suffer from any of these, you need a thorough physical examination. Our specialist team at The WellMan Clinic has the knowledge and experience to discover whether you might benefit from testosterone replacement therapy or other appropriate treatment. Call 0171 637 2018 now for further details or to arrange an appointment, and prepare yourself for the millennium.

THE WELLMAN CLINIC
Weybridge, Surrey, London W21 3PA
http://www.wellman-clinic.com

Low cost quality health insurance you can rely on.

Call 0800 77 99 55

Prime Health Ref M1124NG
A member of the Standard Life Group

Hernia Repair

Effective Local Aesthetic Technique

Specialist Hernia Surgeons

Day Case or Overnight Stay

For more information contact

THE LONDON HERNIA CENTRE
0171 328 1228

مكتبا من الأصيل



John Major resigns as leader of the Tory party in the rose garden at No 10: his statement gave no reason why his party should re-elect him, other than the sullen and oligarchic assumption that the leadership was his by right

Treachery in the Tory camp

On June 22, 1995, John Major resigned as leader of the Conservative Party and gambled that bastards would be cowards. A truly brave prime minister would have freed his Cabinet colleagues from the bonds of loyalty and thrown the contest wide open. He, instead, presumed on their acquiescence in a phoney war that he would easily win, not a real battle.

John Redwood was first told of Major's decision by Michael Howard as they talked in the Commons after Prime Minister's Questions on that Thursday afternoon. It was the last possible moment at which he could have been told, with less than 90 minutes to go before Major's press conference. The choice of intermediary was also foolish, given Redwood's distaste for Howard's obsessiveness and secrecy. Howard told Redwood that "we" thought Major's decision a good idea, reinforcing the impression of an inner circle excluding the wider Cabinet. Redwood said "I think you are all mad", and that it was a disastrous decision for the party and Government.

Some observers later felt that Redwood disagreed with the decision because he thought that it would ultimately see Michael Heseltine elected leader. But tactical judgments were not uppermost in his mind that afternoon. Resentment was I had become increasingly concerned about his detachment from No 10, and the Prime Minister. I had urged him to talk to Major, and had arranged with No 10 for the two to meet on Wednesday, June 21. Redwood agreed, reluctantly, but on Monday and Tuesday was getting cold feet: after more cajoling, he agreed to stick to the meeting.

But when Redwood produced proposals on Europe, "Major said to me 'I can't do this because of Ken [Clarke] and I can't do that because of Douglas [Hurd]'" Redwood left with the impression that Major always wished to convey — of being checkmated. It had been the obvious time for Major to tell Redwood of his decision, and Redwood was later offended by the evident lack of trust.

As we left the Commons, the press was gathering in the rose garden at No 10 for Major's statement. I returned to Whitehall. Redwood was



In the second extract from his damning new book, *Guilty Men*, Hywel Williams reveals the bitter undercurrents behind the Conservative leadership campaign of 1995

driven home to Wokingham. As the car sped along the M4, the tributes began to be aired. For Clarke, it was a sensible, courageous decision. Portillo hoped the moment of glory in the rose garden would "bring to an end a damaging period of uncertainty". Thatcher said "it is a good thing he did this ... it shows he cares. It is a bold move and will clear the air. I believe the Prime Minister will be re-elected and by this move he will have strengthened his authority."

Yet Major's statement gave no reason why his party should re-elect him, other than the sullen and oligarchic assumption that the leadership was his by right. The tone riled Redwood, who saw the decision itself as an abdication of leadership.

Peter Lilley did not join Portillo in the first wave of public declarations from the Cabinet. He spent most of the rest of Thursday and Friday trying to contact Redwood, who would not answer the telephone. Lilley saw Major's decision in the same light as Redwood and was contemplating standing as a candidate for the leadership. When I spoke to him on the phone I said I thought Major's action was one of desertion. Without Redwood to stiffen his nerve, Lilley collapsed when Major's men got to him by Friday. He had always wanted to be Chancellor, and the possibility of fulfilling that ambition in the next two years remained real to him — if not to Major. He agreed with an increasingly nervous Major campaign team that he would declare his support on TV, and told the BBC that the Prime Minister had lanced the boil.

By Sunday afternoon, Redwood's mind was made up, and a steely calm had descended upon him. We agreed to meet at 9am on Monday in his office in the House of Commons. After his resignation had been sent to Major, he

went to see Portillo, a few doors down the corridor. The consequences of this meeting dogged Portillo throughout, and after the campaign. Redwood said he had resigned, but not yet declared his candidature for the leadership. If Portillo wished to take the lead, it was still open for him to do so.

Redwood was amenable to an accommodation. Years before he had offered to support Portillo when the time came for him to stand for the leadership. He rationalised it to himself by saying he still had children at school and

after I've done all the hard work?" It was the start of the collision between Redwood's moral pride and Portillo's resentment. Redwood returned to his room to await his parliamentary supporters.

These were tired, not especially clever, middle-aged men who despaired of a Tory victory. But that was not the impression created by Redwood's first press conference in the Jubilee Room of the Commons that afternoon. Redwood was strong, witty and confident in a performance that surprised many. But with Billerica's Teresa



Hijacked: Marlow, Redwood and Gorman

that it would be easier for the childless Portillo to cope with the domestic upheaval. For a few more moments, the possibility of a Portillo challenge remained. Then Portillo said he would not resign now, but would be a candidate in the second ballot, on the implicit understanding that Redwood would withdraw at that stage. Redwood might not think that he was going to win outright, but he was certainly not going to allow Portillo to be the beneficiary of his resignation.

"You do realise," he said, "that if I do well in the first ballot, I'm not going to withdraw so you can take over

the spectre of a general election rather than commit himself to action through policy. Iconoclastic daring — together with doctrinal raids on his colleagues — was now a Redwood characteristic. So, also, was isolation. He attributed much of the ensuing demoralisation to the No 10 briefing machine: "They found no scandal attached to my name. There were no financial problems. I wasn't having affairs. So they decided I wasn't human and that that was the way to brief against me. Bruce Anderson took me out to dinner and tried to get me to talk about sex so he

could report back to the Prime Minister and they would then get a hold over me."

Some 89 MPs voted for Redwood, 218 for Major, and 22 abstained or spoilt their ballot papers. Just over a third

of the parliamentary party — 111 MPs in all — had refused to support Major.

Had a few more *devots* of Portillo been less inclined to hide their heads in the sands of self-regarding, and ultimately futile, second-ballot calculation, Major would have gone by July 4. The moment at which Redwood's vote neared three figures or the total number of anti-Major votes reached 120 was the moment at which, on its own admission, the Major campaign would have had to capitulate and allow the party leader more time to fulfil his ambition of building a second pond in his Huntingdon garden.

Extracted from *Guilty Men* by Hywel Williams, £19.95, published by Aurum Press on May 18. Times readers can buy the book for £17.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 334459 or use the coupon on Page 41

TOMORROW

Hywel Williams on what Redwood really thought of Thatcher and Major

21st Century Box

When you invest in a PC for the Millennium, you expect the best. You expect your PC to do the job you want, when you want to do it. Invest in a custom-built Dentum PC with Intel Pentium® Processors with MMX™ technology and it will live up to all your expectations. We have the awards to prove it.

Not only are Dan Technology's products streets ahead, with a series of awards for product excellence, but we offer you first-class technical support and an enviable after-sales service. Our Quality Assurance system ensures you a premier service from the moment you request a brochure.

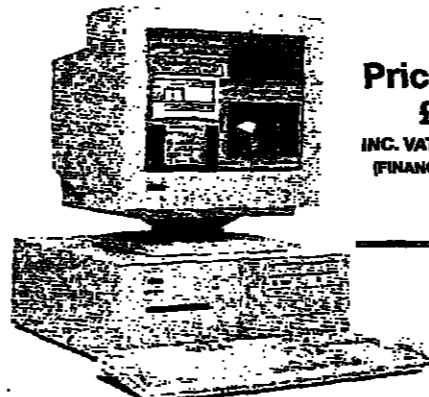
We are behind you every step of the way offering solutions to all of your IT needs. So if you need to get the job done and you aren't prepared to settle for anything but the best, pick up the phone today.

We'll send you a full-colour information pack with technical specifications at your fingertips. And be reassured we share your pursuit of excellence.

Call our sales staff on 0181 8301100, Fax 0181 830 1122 AND QUOTE CODE 77/5

SHOWROOMS OPEN MON-FRI 9.30AM-6PM AT IRONBRIDGE CLOSE, GREAT CENTRAL WAY, LONDON NW10 0DN AND 10-11 FEAST FIELD TOWN STREET, HORSFORTH, LEEDS (TEL: 0113 259 1200)

INTERNET: www.dan.co.uk



Prices from £791 INC. VAT & DELIVERY (FINANCE AVAILABLE)

dan Technology

Thinking outside the box



1997/98 ANNUAL AWARDS

Service & Reliability Award PC Magazine, 1997 Survey

Best Service Award PC Pro, 1997 Survey

Customer Service Award PC Plus 1997 Annual Awards

Best On-Site Maintenance PCW 1997 Survey

Best Server Award PC Direct Hits 1998 Survey

Best Budget PC What PC? 1997 Annual Awards

Best Professional PC What PC? 1997 Annual Awards

"Dan can truly be said to be the best organisation at delivering excellence in customer satisfaction" PC Magazine, Aug 1997.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Midland mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. C/101

For your free home buying guide, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST NW11 1502, Manchester M15 9AZ.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Other (please specify) _____
 Initials _____
 Surname _____
 House name/number _____
 Street _____
 Town _____
 County _____
 Postcode _____
 Daytime tel no. (inc STD) _____
 Evening tel no. (inc STD) _____ M40

Are you looking to move before August? Yes No (please tick).
 Are you a first time buyer? Yes No (please tick). Are you a
 Midland customer? Yes No (please tick). If so please supply
 your sort code I would like to be contacted
 by a Midland mortgage specialist. Yes No (please tick).
 Information from Midland in the future? Yes No (please tick).

There are a lot of stages to buying a home. For answers to your questions, pick up a step by step guide from any Midland Bank or see the mortgage specialist there. 0800 700 123

Four questions you need answered before buying a home.

What types of mortgage are there?
 How much can we borrow?
 What is the difference between fixed and variable interest rates?
 What if something goes wrong after we move in?

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

31
3
ANT
ice
ews
ols
or
nd
id.
he
en
ne
ur
Ar
to
re
re
ig
ne
in
le
st
o
y
e
ll
s.
er
er
in
re
in
e
h
ad
le
to
of
es
ch
at
rs
an
er
32
36

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 6: Queen Elizabeth II was received by the Queen this morning upon relinquishing his appointment as Governor-General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

invited to lunch with the Queen.
The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member, Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, this morning presented the Prince Philip Award for 1997 to Sir Michael G. H. Jones.

School news

Holmwood House,
Tunbridge Wells
The summer term began on April 21 with a record number of 515 boys and girls in the school.

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Royal Mausoleum, Buckingham Palace, to launch the change to the use of liquid petroleum gas in royal cars at 4.00 p.m.

Birthdays today

Mr Nicholas Bennett, chief executive, Association of Consulting Engineers.
49: Mr Scottie Bressley, former jockey and trainer.

Memorial service

Mr Oliver Ronald Smith
A memorial service for Mr Oliver Ronald Smith, barrister, was held yesterday in Lincoln's Inn Chapel.



Edward Burrows, a 12-year-old chorister from St Paul's Cathedral, makes his debut as the youngest soloist at the Proms in the Albert Hall this year - following his brother Connor, who was the youngest Prom soloist three years ago

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.D.G. Barton and Miss S.R. Holt
The engagement is announced between Bernard, son of Mr and Mrs John Barton, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Susanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Holt, of Hesser House, Bexley, Suffolk.

Luncheons

City Livry Club
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were present and spoke at the annual luncheon of the City Livry Club held yesterday at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

Mr J.A. Floyd

A service of thanksgiving for the life of J.A. Floyd will be held on Tuesday, May 12, at 11.30 a.m. at James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1.

Roger Opie

There will be a memorial service for Roger Gilbert Opie, Fellow of New College, Oxford 1961-1992, Emeritus 1992-1998, on Saturday, May 23, at 2.30 p.m. in New College Chapel.

Dinners

Glaziers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoresse, the Lord Mayor's wife, and the Lord Mayor's daughter, attended the annual dinner of the Glaziers' Company held last night at the Mansion House.

Receptions

The Air League
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Air League, was received by the Rev. Michael Tristram, rector of St Andrew's Church, at the annual reception held last night at the Mansion House.

Marriages

Mr J.L. Eddis and Miss J.P. Kotler
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 2, at St Martin's Church, East Horsley, Surrey, between John, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Eddis, of Little Horsey, Essex, and Miss Polly Kotler, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kotler, of Little Comberton, Worcestershire.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

BRITNEY - On May 3rd, to Maria (nee Cavanna) and Mark, a son, Edward John.
BRITTON - On Friday 1st May 1998 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, a healthy baby girl, Hannah, a son, Charles Peter.

DEATHS

BEAN - Peter L., dearly loved husband of Joan, died peacefully at home on 30th April 1998.
BRICKNALL - On Thursday 30th April 1998, to All (nee Blackford) and Richard, a daughter, Sophie, a son, a sister for Jake.

BIRTHS

BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a son, James.
BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a daughter, Emily.

DEATHS

BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a son, James.
BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a daughter, Emily.

BIRTHS

BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a son, James.
BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a daughter, Emily.

DEATHS

BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a son, James.
BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a daughter, Emily.

BIRTHS

BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a son, James.
BRIDGES - On May 3rd, to Mrs. J. and Mr. J. Bridges, a daughter, Emily.

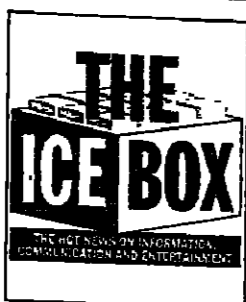
Various advertisements including 'FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES', 'PERSONAL COLUMN', 'BIRTHS', 'DEATHS', 'SERVICES', 'WANTED', 'FOR SALE', and 'WE NEED YOUR EXPERIENCE'.

دكتور من الأصل

THE TIMES



INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS

Extranet expected to offer victory over bureaucracy PAGE 33



ARTS

Success comes in all sizes for theatre's Steven Pimlott PAGES 36-39



SPORT

Gifford determined to prove her point at Badminton PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 7 1998

Lord Sainsbury quits family firm for politics

By Sarah Cunningham

SIR GEORGE BULL, the outgoing deputy chairman of Diageo, has been appointed chairman of J Sainsbury after the surprise resignation of Lord Sainsbury of Turville.

His departure, after six years in the chair, is set for September and means that for the first time in its 129-year history there will not be a member of the Sainsbury family running the business, and no members of the clan working in the organisation.

million. Sales growth at the supermarkets, excluding new stores, was 3.4 per cent, which includes 1.6 per cent price inflation. In the first eight weeks of this financial year, the rate of growth has slowed to 2.8 per cent, with inflation at between 1 and 2 per cent.

departure could open up new possibilities for the company, and would give Mr Adriano a freer hand in running the company. However, they also pointed out that Sainsbury's sales growth remains considerably below that of Tesco, which has overtaken it as market leader.

in Fulham Palace Road. Seven more stores specially designed for country towns are set to open and three city centre stores are due to open next year. The first will be in Tottenham Court Road, Central London. The company also plans to expand 21 stores this year and sees scope to expand 150 in all.

nine Homebase stores were shut and a further 15 are due for closure this year. Sales of gardening equipment were hit by the wet weather this spring, the company said, with the result that Homebase's like-for-like sales in the first eight weeks of this year rose only 2.1 per cent.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Includes FTSE 100, FTSE All shares, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite.

US RATE

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes Federal Funds, Long Bond.

LONDON MONEY

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes 3-month Interbank, Liba 100, 3-month futures (Jun).

STERLING

Table with 2 columns: Location, Rate. Includes New York, London, DM, FF, SFY, Yen, £ Index.

US \$

Table with 2 columns: Location, Rate. Includes London, DM, FF, SFY, Yen, £ Index.

Oil

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes Brent 15-day (Jul).

GOLD

Table with 2 columns: Location, Rate. Includes London close.

Power play

ScottishPower has allocated a £3 billion war chest to spend on US acquisitions, despite the recent breakdown of takeover talks with Florida Progress.

Gone flat

Whitbread shares fell yesterday after the brewing and leisure group gave warning that trading in the current financial year had failed to live up to expectations.

Daimler to merge in \$35bn deal with Chrysler

By Oliver August in New York and Adam Jones in London

DAIMLER-BENZ and Chrysler are negotiating a \$35 billion (£21 billion) merger that could create the world's fifth-largest car maker.

world's largest merger of two industrial groups and follows in the footsteps of megamerger in the communications and banking sectors. Hal Rich, co-head of DL's merger unit, said: "We are in an era where historical limitations have been thrown aside. Nothing is too big."

The deal would be likely to trigger a consolidation wave in the automobile sector, according to Wall Street and City analysts, and may have a fall-out effect across US and European engineering.

Tom DiBella, vice-president of Aelius Investment Management, said: "It makes sense for Chrysler to get into bed with Daimler. The country flags have come down and the flag of profitability has gone up."

A joint statement said: "Daimler-Benz and Chrysler are in talks about a possible merger of both companies. The merger could include a swap of shares into a combined company."

Mercedes-Benz, the Daimler luxury car division, is strong in Europe but has failed to achieve a big breakthrough in the US market. The merger would also achieve Daimler's long-term ambition of establishing itself in the non-luxury car market.

Both boards were meeting yesterday and further announcements were promised. Chrysler is the third-largest

Chrysler, the maker of light trucks and sports utility vehicles, has a US market share of 16 per cent but faces problems in Europe.

SHARES in British Aerospace leapt 6 per cent yesterday on the hope that BAe might buy into, or merge with, Dasa, the Daimler-Benz aerospace arm.

Scott Merlis, an analyst at Merlis Automotive International, said: "To some extent there is a hand-in-glove fit. Chrysler has been working very hard to penetrate Europe in overseas markets. Mercedes has been working to get a presence in the mass market in North America."

US carmaker while Daimler is Germany's largest industrial company with interests in car manufacturing, aerospace and electronics.

The merged group would produce an annual 3.7 million vehicles. Car companies have been talking about consolidation for some time. Ferdinand Piech, the VW chief executive, recently predicted that the number of leading carmakers would drop from 19 to less than a dozen.

Analysts said the deal could turn out to be a takeover of Chrysler by Daimler for about \$35 billion rather than a merger. A 15 per cent jump in Chrysler's share price boosted its market value to \$30 billion. Daimler has a market capitalisation of \$55 billion. Its shares rose 7 per cent.

The deal would be the



Next stage: Sheryl Crow and other artistes signed to PolyGram may find a new home after Philips said it was reviewing its stake in the company

'For sale' sign up at PolyGram

By Chris Ayres

POLYGRAM, the world's largest music company and home to artistes such as U2, Sheryl Crow and Boyzone, was effectively offered for sale yesterday when Philips said it was reviewing the future of its 75 per cent stake.

Gates in personal appeal to avert new legal action

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL GATES, the Microsoft chairman, has made a personal appeal to Joel Klein, the US Justice Department's competition chief, not to proceed with a broad anti-trust suit against the software group during a "high-noon" meeting.

freedom to innovate and to continually improve our product is so fundamentally important. It was not a negotiating session."

The Justice Department said: "Until we have made a final decision on the suit we will listen to all sides, and that includes Bill Gates."

Mr Gates told Mr Klein that a move against his company would hurt the entire computer industry and possibly the American economy. Microsoft has won the support of other computer companies in its fight against an anti-trust prosecution.

The meeting was arranged at very short notice in anticipation that the highly damaging suit will be filed soon. Microsoft, America's second biggest company, could be forced to license its products to introduce competition into the market for computer operating systems.

The companies fear that a delay of the release of Microsoft products could hurt their own sales.

PolyGram could be worth up to £6 billion. However, there would be few likely buyers. Analysts said Seagram was already involved in several deals, and that the other big four music groups - Sony, Warner, EMI and Bertelsmann - were either not in a position to make an acquisition or were ruled out by regulatory problems.

Microsoft said: "It was more of an opportunity for Bill to talk directly with Mr Klein about why Microsoft views the

Insider dealers face unlimited fines

By Jon Ashworth

INSIDER dealers face the sanction of unlimited fines, under a tough civil regime proposed by the Government.

(FSA), the City regulator, will be equipped with civil sanctions aimed at plugging gaps in the existing legislation. It will have the power to prosecute cases of insider dealing, along with other areas of market manipulation. It will also have the power to prosecute criminal breaches of the regulations on money laundering. It is also proposed that the Stock Exchange be given the power to impose fines for breaches of the listing rules.

Trade and Industry, which must then decide whether to prosecute. The FSA will take on the role, although the DTI will retain concurrent powers. A code of market conduct will set out behaviour which would be unacceptable in the markets. Legislation will allow for an independent appeals tribunal.

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the measures would further enhance the UK's standing in world financial markets. He said: "The FSA's job is to sustain confidence in the market and to assist in the detection and prevention of financial crime. The

FSA will now have the powers it needs to do that job."

Individuals or firms, regulated or not, will be covered by the measures, which are aimed at bolstering the UK's dismal record in prosecuting insider dealing. Since 1990, there have been only 17 prosecutions and 12 convictions. Under the existing criminal legislative framework, it is all-but impossible to make cases of insider dealing stick.

Under the present system, suspected cases of insider dealing are passed by the Exchange to the Department of

the Treasury, said the measures would further enhance the UK's standing in world financial markets. He said: "The FSA's job is to sustain confidence in the market and to assist in the detection and prevention of financial crime. The

higher the standard of proof will be."

James Capel Investment Management advertisement. Includes logo, text: "James Capel welcomes Private Clients. We are one of the leading investment managers for private clients. Our investment strategy is formulated at the highest level but your portfolio is personalised to your own unique needs, not pooled with thousands of others. As well as tailor-made portfolios, we offer something more. Your own portfolio manager with whom you can meet or talk any time of day. Together with the professionalism you would expect from a member of the HSBC Group, one of the leading banking and financial services organisations in the world. The Private Client Specialist." Includes contact info: Simon Corbett or Nandita Khanna on 0171 336 9195, fax them on 0171 283 3187 or write to them at the address below. 6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JQ.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

JÜRGEN SCHREMP, the chairman of Daimler-Benz, is sometimes nicknamed Neutron Jürgen - a flattering comparison with "Neutron Jack" Welch, the head of General Electric and probably the world's premier industrialist.

Driving ambition puts car industry in a spin

management is getting to grips with the truck operation; yes, Dasa, the aerospace division, returned to profit last year - but DM250 billion?

Adam Jones and Oliver August size up a surprise alliance

Chrysler, a former Buick employee, produced his own car in 1924 for the Maxwell-Chalmers Corporation, which then became Chrysler Corporation in 1925.

The recovery was engineered and Mr Iacocca became a celebrity. Robert Eaton succeeded him as chairman and chief executive in January 1993, having been president of General Motors Europe.

ler's international businesses back to Stuttgart for strategy meetings that turn into drinking sessions. On a business trip to Rome a few years ago, an intoxicated Herr Schrempp was arrested by the Italian police after ramming through the city with his secretary.

Barclays unveils telephone service

BARCLAYS yesterday announced plans to win back customers through a telephone-based retail brand. It will initially offer a single product, the Advanced Savings Account - a guaranteed, Pepable unit trust, which will invest in UK blue chip companies. It will be available from May 18.

Scottish Power targets US with £3bn warchest

By Christine Buckley Industrial Correspondent

SCOTTISHPOWER has allocated a £3 billion warchest to spend on US acquisitions. Despite the recent breakdown of talks with Florida Progress, which would have cost about that much, the multi-utility is working on "desktop" studies of between six and 12 US companies.



Ian Russell, Murray Stuart, chairman, and Ian Robinson, chief executive

ensure that the deal would have been worth doing after a series of close studies. The company, which has devoted a team to scrutinising the US market, first started looking at US opportunities last autumn.

ScottishPower confirmed its continued interest in the US as speculation persists around PowerGen, the third biggest generator, which is talking to several possible US partners.

made profits of £4 million. The telecoms arm, which analysts believe could be worth about £1 billion, has for some time been the centre of flotation speculation.

MPC tipped to hold rates as services slow again

By Alasdair Murray Economics Correspondent

GROWTH in the services sector slowed for the second month running, leaving the City confident that interest rates will remain on hold when the Bank of England concludes its monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting today.

The UK purchasing managers' monthly services survey, published yesterday, showed the overall activity index dipping from 60.5 to 59.1. The survey's forward indicators also hinted at a slowdown with the new orders index declining markedly and price rises moderating.

Economists said the data, while indicating overall robust growth, suggested the strong pound and the weakening manufacturing sector were taking their toll of services.

Sterling, however, yesterday lost further ground against the mark as traders gambled on an increase in European interest rates ahead of the launch of the euro. The pound slipped nearly a mark to close at DM2.9329.

The FTSE 250 rose 2.4 to finish at 5,704.7. In contrast, the FTSE 100 closed up just 0.8 at 5,987.3.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Far East crisis wipes 22% off Time profits

TIME PRODUCTS, the distributor of watches and luxury goods, suffered a 22 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £17.2 million from £22 million in the year to January 31 as the financial crisis in the Far East took its toll on demand from wealthy visitors from the region.

Marcus Margulies, group chairman, said the Asian crisis had brought to an end five years of strong growth in the luxury watch business. He warned that conditions were unlikely to improve in the short term.

Liddell under fire

HELEN LIDDELL, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, faced criticism when giving evidence to the Treasury Select Committee yesterday over the Government's decision not to include mortgage lending in the scope of the planned new structure for policing financial services through the Financial Services Authority.

Phytopharm drug trial

SHARES in Phytopharm rose 2p to 88.5p after the pharmaceutical company said P54, its arthritis drug, had begun phase II clinical trials across the UK in 30 test centres. Results of the trial are expected in the first quarter of next year.

Shoe retailer suffers

THE collapse of Melita, a wholesale supplier, dragged pre-tax profits at Stylo, the shoe retailer, down 75 per cent to £703,000 for the year to January 31, after provisions of £3.4 million. The maintained 4.66p dividend is to be paid in two tranches.

Select sales up 44%

SHARES in Select Appointments rose from 830p to 893p after the group announced that it had raised sales by 44 per cent to \$298.9 million (£175.8 million) in the first quarter of 1998. About 33 per cent of the rise was put down to organic growth, the rest to acquisitions.

New chief for JD Sport

JOHN DAVID SPORT, the poorly performing sportswear retailer, has appointed David Patrick as its chief executive. Mr Patrick, 41, previously managing director of Stylo Inside, the sports footwear retailer, replaces David Makin, one of JD's founders.

AMP windfall will be higher than forecast

By Marianne Curphey

MORE than 170,000 UK policyholders of AMP, the Australian insurer, will enjoy a windfall of about £3,700 each, an increase of more than 20 per cent since last September.

Strong results from the Cairngorm Building Societies Investment Trusts

Unaudited final results for year ended 31 March 1998

Financial Highlights	
• Total return up by	187% to 39.28 pence per share (1997: 13.68 pence per share)
• Capital gain up by	262% to 33.88 pence per share (1997: 9.37 pence per share)
• Earnings per share up by	25% to 5.40 pence per share (1997: 4.31 pence per share)
• Net Asset Value increased by	33% to 139.8 pence per share (1997: 105.1 pence per share)
• Dividend increase of	10% to 4.40 pence per share (1997: 4.00 pence per share)

The final dividend of 3p will be paid on 5 June to shareholders on the register on 22 May 1998, subject to shareholder approval

There are 10 Cairngorm Building Societies Investment Trusts and the shares in these are traded as Units with each Unit comprising 1 share in each of the 10 Trusts.

J P CAIRNGORM ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD
20 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF
Tel: 0131 266 6040 Fax: 0131 226 6041
Email: info@jpcairngorm.co.uk
Website: www.jpcairngorm.co.uk

N Brown still interested in Freemans

N BROWN, the home shopping company that pulled out of a bid for Freemans last year, may make another move after Freemans has been demerged from Sears later this year.

N Brown's pre-tax profit rose 11.2 per cent to £41.3 million in the year to February 28. Earnings were 19.3p (17p) and there is a final dividend of 5.25p (4.8p), giving a 7.5p (6.8p) total.

Tempus, page 30

TOURIST RATES		
Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$... 2.80	Bank of America ... 2.21	Bank of Montreal ... 2.21
Austria Sch ... 13.76	Barclays ... 19.85	Bank of Tokyo ... 2.21
Canada Cdn ... 2.10	CIBC ... 58.66	Bank of West ... 2.21
Cyprus Cyp ... 0.808	Commerzbank ... 12.55	Bank of Ireland ... 2.21
Denmark Kr ... 11.77	Credit Lyonnais ... 9.89	Bank of Scotland ... 2.21
France Fr ... 6.46	HSBC ... 8.70	Bank of South Africa ... 2.21
Germany DM ... 10.30	Industria ... 9.62	Bank of China ... 2.21
Greece Dr ... 3.08	Merchants ... 2.85	Bank of India ... 2.21
Hong Kong ... 5.75	NBS ... 4.98	Bank of Korea ... 2.21
India ... 33.57	NIBC ... 1.11	Bank of Mexico ... 2.21
Ireland ... 1.32	NSC ... 1.13	Bank of New Zealand ... 2.21
Italy Lira ... 6.40	NTS ... 2.85	Bank of Oman ... 2.21
Japan Yen ... 225.11	NTS ... 2.85	Bank of Singapore ... 2.21
Norway Kr ... 0.679	NTS ... 0.80	Bank of Sri Lanka ... 2.21
Netherlands Gld ... 3.488	NTS ... 3.198	Bank of Taiwan ... 2.21
Poland ... 3.08	NTS ... 2.84	Bank of Thailand ... 2.21
Portugal Esc ... 12.78	NTS ... 11.84	Bank of Vietnam ... 2.21
Spain ... 162.84	NTS ... 280.81	Bank of China (Hong Kong) ... 2.21
S. Africa R ... 8.08	NTS ... 9.32	Bank of Communications ... 2.21
Spain Ptas ... 203.36	NTS ... 241.47	Bank of East Asia ... 2.21
Sweden Sw ... 13.40	NTS ... 12.29	Bank of India ... 2.21
Switzerland Fr ... 2.80	NTS ... 2.88	Bank of Japan ... 2.21
Turkey Lira ... 419.889	NTS ... 386.211	Bank of Korea ... 2.21
USA \$... 1.785	NTS ... 1.822	Bank of London ... 2.21

THE TIMES

TUESDAY SATURDAY PREPARE FOR TAKEOFF

CHANGING TIMES

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Deal to outsource Savings threatened 2,500 jobs

STANDARD LIFE

730%

750 MONTHS REQUIRED

لکڑا من الاصل

STOCK MARKET



FRASER NEILSON

Cautious investors steer clear of the blue chips

A CAUTIOUS day of trading in London saw blue chips give up a half-hearted attempt to pass the 6,000 level yesterday, leaving the FTSE 250 index to continue its solid advance to reach a record high.

A dull start on Wall Street failed to rouse support for a FTSE 100 rally. The index closed up 5.9 points at 5922.4, while the FTSE 250 gained 23.1 points to 5705 - above the 5,700 barrier for the first time.

BTP, the chemicals company, was the star performer. Dealers are beginning to re-evaluate the impact of its contract to supply chemicals used in Viagra.

Alan Sugar, founder of Amstrad, who took his holding in the consumer electronics company up to 29.8 per cent

He has now returned to the market, buying another £12 million of shares in the company to take his holding up to 29.8 per cent - just short of the trigger level where he would be forced to take the company private.

British Aerospace, up 29 1/2 p to 532 1/2 p, has found itself dragged into the takeover talks between Daimler-Benz and Chrysler.

Halifax has been giving its investor a good deal of grief recently. After touching 97 1/2 p in March, shares have plunged to 78 1/2 p - adding 4 1/2 p yesterday.



Alan Sugar, founder of Amstrad, who took his holding in the consumer electronics company up to 29.8 per cent

only one has been recommended buying. Its own broker is on hold. Good news from the mortgage front helped Alliance & Leicester up 20 1/2 p to 862 p, after telling shareholders that mortgage lending is still on the increase.

Associated British Ports found itself the centre of some loose bid speculation, which took the shares 17 p ahead to 373 p.

West 175 Enterprises finally announced its much-touted joint venture with the BBC, and was rewarded by a 30 per cent increase in the shares to 85 p.

Ellis & Partners, the broker, which has taken four penny shares AIM stocks to the market, is said to be planning to join the junior exchange itself.

Still, the sector has only now caught up with the FTSE all-share index.

Now that regulation fears have been lifted, a similar sprint is unlikely.

Properties, up 22 1/2 p at 277 1/2 p by rival Grantham, of 3 1/2 p at 182 1/2 p, lived up to the property sector. Bid speculation also helped Cardiff Properties add 15 p to 343 1/2 p.

Shares of Metsec have enjoyed a suspiciously good market of late - and yesterday the engineering company explained why. It is looking to be taken over, and has already held abortive talks with rival Kingspan, steady at 277 1/2 p.

Peninsular & Oriental, which has been lifted from 650 p on the rally in transport stocks, dropped 16 p to 872 p as the City reacted to the report in The Times on Tuesday that the Crown Princess, its largest ever ship, is to miss its May 14 departure deadline.

Desire Petroleum has had a cold reception to AIM. Its shares started at 145 p but sunk to 129 p on stages who had hoped to sell at a 10 per cent premium.

West 175 Enterprises finally announced its much-touted joint venture with the BBC, and was rewarded by a 30 per cent increase in the shares to 85 p.

Ellis & Partners, the broker, which has taken four penny shares AIM stocks to the market, is said to be planning to join the junior exchange itself.

Still, the sector has only now caught up with the FTSE all-share index.

Now that regulation fears have been lifted, a similar sprint is unlikely.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various regional indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes AB Airlines, ARM Holdings, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Avoca Mining, Freepit, and others.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Xerox, Smiths Ind, GEC, BT, Laird, and others.

TEMPUS Shopping around

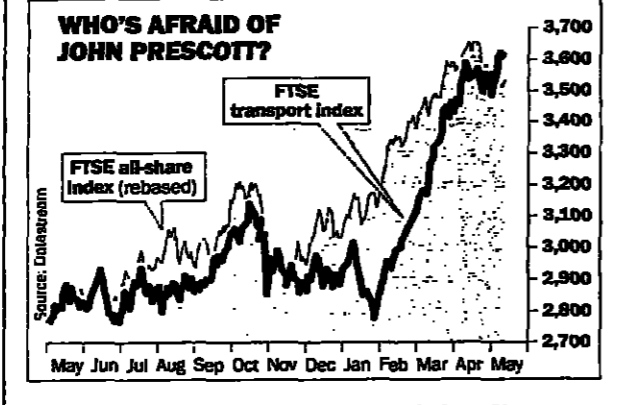
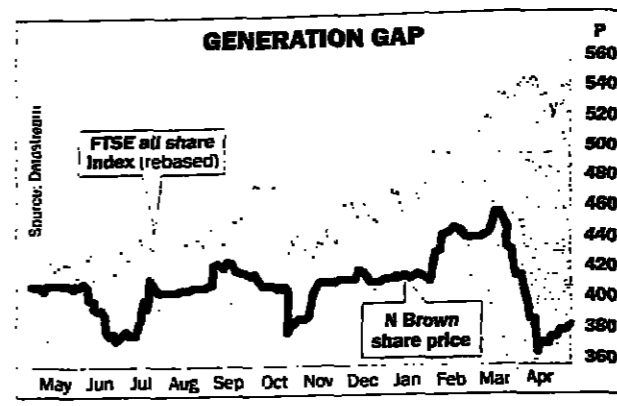
There is something of the compulsive shopper about ScottishPower. First off the blocks in the race to buy regional electricity companies with the purchase of Manweb, it then went on to fight off Southern Electric to buy Southern Water.

Now, as it made clear yesterday, the company is keen to make a deal in the US, where deregulation is in its infancy. At 114 per cent geared, ScottishPower has some room for manoeuvre. It would be happy at 150-160 per cent. It has further scope to drum up resources in the US where the company is now listed.

The second is that the company clearly wishes to grow by making a big acquisition and has not been able to. It tried and failed to buy Littlewoods and, more recently, Freemans.

Whitbread BY the time of his death in 1796 Samuel Whitbread was probably the most famous brewer in the world. While the Whitbread of 1998 is still a major force in brewing, it is significant that hotels and restaurants can contribute more profit than beer.

Willis Corroon HOW long can Willis Corroon remain independent while trading conditions for brokers are so tough? Shareholders would love to see Willis merge with fellow broker Sedgwick and use the increased muscle of the combined entity in the market.



THIS time last year, the City was worried that John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, might arrive in government with cunning ideas to curb the profits of companies that run the privatised buses and railways.

Table titled 'LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES' showing market data for various indices like Long Gilt, German Gov Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

Table titled 'MONEY RATES (%)' showing rates for various currencies and financial instruments.

Table titled 'EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)' showing deposit rates for different currencies and terms.

Table titled 'GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)' showing prices for gold, silver, and platinum.

Table titled 'STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES' showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Table titled 'DOLLAR RATES' showing exchange rates for various dollar-denominated currencies.

Table titled 'OTHER STERLING' showing rates for various sterling-denominated instruments.

Table titled 'FTSE VOLUMES' showing trading volumes for various FTSE indices.

Table titled 'WALL STREET' showing market data for various US stocks and indices.

Large advertisement for Arch to co featuring a woman's face and the text 'AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة من الاصل'

Revenge of the middle-aged discards

Isn't it great, having a youthful Prime Minister who can dash around the world solving - or dynamically failing to solve - everyone's long-standing problems. Well no, actually it is rather a pain for the over-50s. Barring accidents, Tony Blair can expect to retire in his mid-50s, after nearly ten years in the job, and start making some real money. Meanwhile, the cult of youth he embodies will condemn millions more to the economic scrapheap before their time. The longer people can expect to live, it seems, the younger they can expect to be pushed out of the labour force.

As a respected employment research group reported this week that early retirement is now the norm in big firms. Averaging the differing experience of 23 big pension schemes, IDS found that 64 per cent of members retiring last year were under 60, up from 55 per cent in 1996. Among the total 55,000 people covered, the proportion was even higher. Fully 70 per cent of those starting to draw their pension were 59 or younger and 80 per cent were below their scheme's normal retirement age.

Regularly year after year to finance cuts of employees. Indeed, last year's overall average was boosted by a rush of teachers to beat new Whitehall cost-cutting rules. Private sector companies usually have an incentive to push people out early and make up some or all of their lost entitlement from fund surpluses. Actuarially, much higher contributions are required for older workers in any fund that "guarantees" a pension as a proportion of pay. In only one of the schemes covered by IDS was there a normal retirement age of 65 and no special help for early retirees. In that company, only a fifth of those retiring last year were under 60.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

substitute for retraining or sacking teachers reckoned not to be reforming to current norms, especially head teachers, and to help people in poor health who are still theoretically able to work.

employees will depend on purchased pensions. In such schemes the pension depends on returns earned on contributions. By the laws of compound interest, a large proportion of the pension is earned in the final years before retirement. Penalties for leaving the labour market early will become dire.

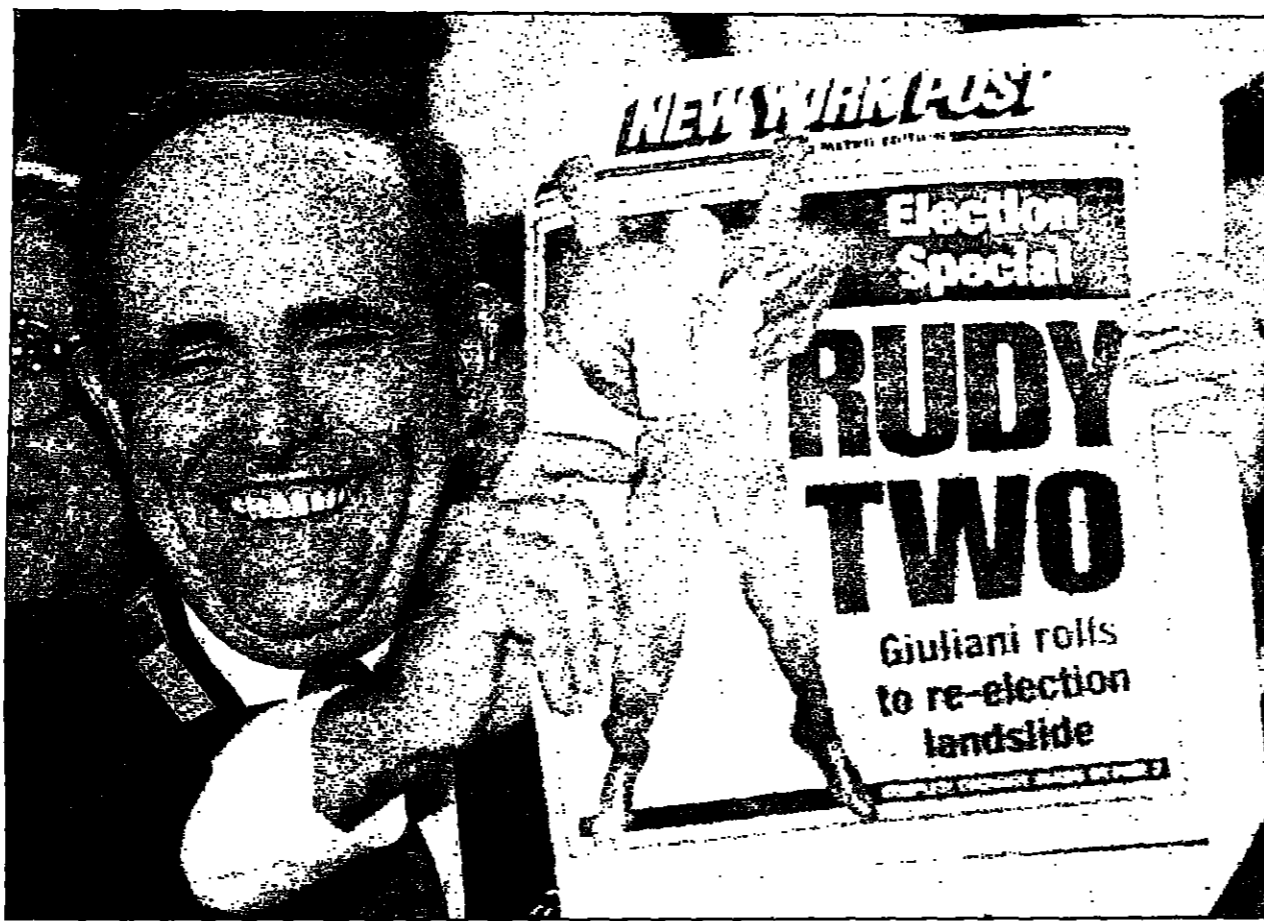
subordinates uncomfortable, one reason why well-qualified culled over-50s find it hard to win more junior posts. We all tend to excuse the faults of the young as more corrigible, in the face of generations of evidence.

It does not make much difference. A few months ago, when one New England state was faced with cuts to education budgets, the schools superintendent knew what to do. For every senior teacher he retired and replaced with a beginner, he said, he would save \$27,000 a year.

Archer wide of the mark if aiming to copy New York transformation



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX



Media darling: the irrepressible Rudolph Giuliani celebrates his re-election as mayor of New York in November

There are lessons Jeffrey Archer, or any other would-be mayor of London, should take from the transformation of New York City under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

There is no doubt that the hugely popular Mr Giuliani has done wonders with his city since he took the reins on January 1, 1994. But New York is a special case because of its dependence on Wall Street, which has poured billions into the city coffers.

That is not to say the choice of mayor makes no difference, but almost anyone would manage to collect the garbage given so much cash. If the Dow Jones industrial average stumps, the revival of New York will be shown to be more precarious than it now seems.

The current mood of prosperity may be expressed with more restraint than at the height of the 1980s, but the signs of money are inescapable.

York's only industry: the city also relies heavily on tourism and entertainment. However, the economic boom and the record rise of the Dow has sent a wall of money pouring into the treasury. The question of exactly how much the city relies on the FIRE (finance, insurance and real estate) sector is a sensitive point, much debated in the mayor's joustabout public meetings.

nesses, and compared with \$70,000 a decade ago. The sector's share of commercial property taxes - estimated simply from its share of the city's jobs - is at least \$0.6 billion. The total tax income clearly attributable to the sector is, therefore, at least \$3.1 billion, 16 per cent of its total tax revenue last year of \$19.3 billion.

room to manoeuvre. It is also clear that if Wall Street slumps, budgets will have to be cut sharply: the city itself expects securities profits to fall by 60 per cent this year.

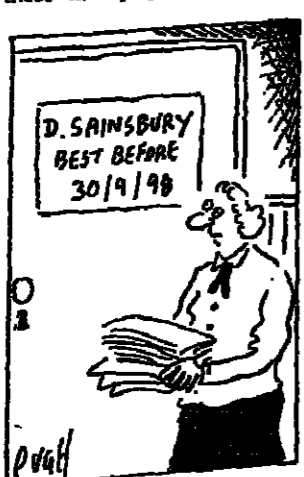
700,000 in 1980 and 1981, and again between 1988 and 1990. Some of this may indeed be because of a new law-abiding culture fostered by "zero-tolerance" policing, the now-famous strategy of fixing broken windows and cleaning graffiti to make the city feel safer and hence to discourage crime.

Browned off

ANOTHER prime slice of Eurofudge, this time courtesy of the so-called Euro-X, the obscure sub-group of finance ministers formed from among those 11 nations signed up to the single currency. They have their first meeting on June 4 in Luxembourg, and under the diplomatic niceties that prevail, it must be chaired by someone from the nation currently holding the presidency, which requires the presence of Gordon Brown.

initial idea was to exclude the Chancellor and hand the meeting over to the Austrian Finance Minister, whose country conveniently takes over the presidency in July. The plan has now changed, and then side off, allowing the Austrian to take over. So he will start his term and then be forced to hand it over. An idea with an odd resonance after events in Europe over the weekend.

Britain is, of course, not in the euro-zone, and so has no place at any such meeting. Always difficult to know what to do with the poor relations at these family gatherings: the



WHEN Marjorie Scardino, boss of Pearson, won the Vevee Clicquot Businesswoman of the Year Award last week, I hear Greg Dyke's response was worthy of the man who brought Roland Rat to our screens. "I'd rather win the Watney's Businessman of the Year Award," he quipped.

Thin cat HERE is an interesting case of executive Scruples. You lose your job, and the headhunter finds you another one, worthy but dull. A few weeks later the headhunter phones with a second offer, an interesting buyout that could turn a big profit. David Callair, chief ex-



BROTHER TY is an alcoholic Wall Street trader who retreats to a monastery to find the place is about to go bankrupt. God is My Broker is the story of how, by the study of ancient Biblical texts, he invests enough to save the monastery while discovering the 7: Laws of Spiritual and Financial Growth. It is an investment guide with a moral that you and I can use to improve our bank balances and make the world a better place.

Off the road

TERENCE CONRAN has made himself unpopular among the inhabitants of SW3 over some unwise remarks made to the Chelsea Society. He owns the Bluebird diner and food market in King's Road. He was at a meeting of the Society recently and put forward the idea that much of the area's parking and traffic problems could be resolved if

the council were to build underground car parks beneath the elegant squares that border King's Road itself.

Never mind the chaos as the builders move in. Never mind that the main beneficiaries of such a hair-brained scheme would be local businesses, including the Bluebird, prop Terence Conran. What really got up some local noses was that the planning deal that allowed it to open a year ago, guaranteed a number of parking spaces underneath to ease local traffic congestion. These have yet to materialise, his office admits. I ring Conran to confirm this. "At the moment I don't know the detail," he replies. "You may be right. You may be wrong."

MARTIN WALLER



Conran: parking trouble

BUSINESS LETTERS

Virgin Rail is making dramatic improvements to train punctuality

From the Chairman, The Virgin Group of Companies Sir, In The Times study of the state of Britain's rail systems you state that "despite a £190 million investment last year its (Virgin Rail's) punctuality rate has barely improved". But the picture is improving dramatically.

to improve reading ability, to end the automatic annual promotion of children to the next grade regardless of achievement, and generally to hold schools accountable for results. The powerful teachers' unions have hardly helped the task of raising teaching standards and making them consistent.

EMU's lower rates are double-edged

From Mr Michael Harman Sir, Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, writing in favour of joining EMU (May 4), lists lower interest rates "worth between £300 and £600 per year to the average mortgage payer" as an unmixled long-term gain. But what of building society savers whose incomes will go correspondingly down? Is their loss also actually a gain for the country, or has Mr Bruce simply overlooked them? And how much credence should I give his other arguments?

Ofwat must explain how it did its sums

From Pamela Taylor Sir, You reported (May 1) that Ofwat had challenged water industry estimates for funding future environmental and quality improvements. We were asked to put a cost on legislation that hasn't been introduced or even finalised and we've worked hard to produce the most accurate figures possible.

Advertisement for THE TIMES Creme 98 19-21 MAY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOW CHANGING TECHNOLOGY Professional Development Careering Ahead Hundreds of Exhibitors Executive Fashion Shows FREE ADMISSION

32

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Fund Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', and 'Change'. Includes various fund categories such as Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

telia me it's easy

Call Telia and we'll tell you more about telecom solutions for business. 0800 652 5000

http://www.telia.co.uk telia

Vertical sidebar on the right edge of the page containing various advertisements for products like 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES', 'BANKS', 'BREWERS, PUBS & RESTAURANTS', 'BUILDING MATERIALS', 'CHEMICALS', and 'CONSTRUCTION'.

Equities make modest advance

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

IWC advertisement featuring a pocket watch image and text: 'Another of your achievements that will be remembered for years to come. IWC watches available from £1,000.' Includes contact information for J.W. Benson.



MUSIC
Barenboim's magnificent Beethoven

THE TIMES ARTS

FILM
Verdict on Jeremy Irons in Lolita
FACING PAGE



Fancy footwork at fever pitch

Was it just coincidence that I spent Tuesday night's interval limping about the stalls with an awful cramp in my calf? I don't think so. I am, I suppose, more prone to scratching my head than tapping my feet; but the energy-level and rhythm-quotient at the Palladium were such that even my ageing, under-used muscles found themselves twitching and perilously pulsating in sympathy. There may not be much of a plot to *Saturday Night Fever*, but as a dancing musical it is irresistible.

Nan Knighton has adapted the 1977 movie to the stage, subtracting little of significance from the tale of Tony Manero, the Brooklyn paint-shop facitum for whom the Saturday five at the 2001 Odyssey Club is the pinnacle of serious fun.

The Bee Gees have added the odd number to their original score, but that too is essentially the same. There was a ripple of applause around the theatre, the sort that usually greets royalty, when the composers took their first-night seats 20 minutes late; but irritation turned to admiration when *Night Fever*, *You Should Be Dancing* and several other songs came banging across the footlights.

Tony is, of course, the role that made John Travolta's name and, on last night's evidence, is likely to do a lot for the hitherto unknown, untried Adam Garcia. He has the snakelike figure, the sculpted black hair, the pout and strutting, sauntering charisma, the offhand arrogance and callow narcissism and, if not an exceptional singing voice, an agile pelvis and a pair of pretty nimble feet.

Those limbs matter more than the story. Do we care if Tony gets off with Tara Wilkinson's dim, homespun Annette or Anita Louise Corab'e's

MUSICAL
Saturday Night Fever
Palladium

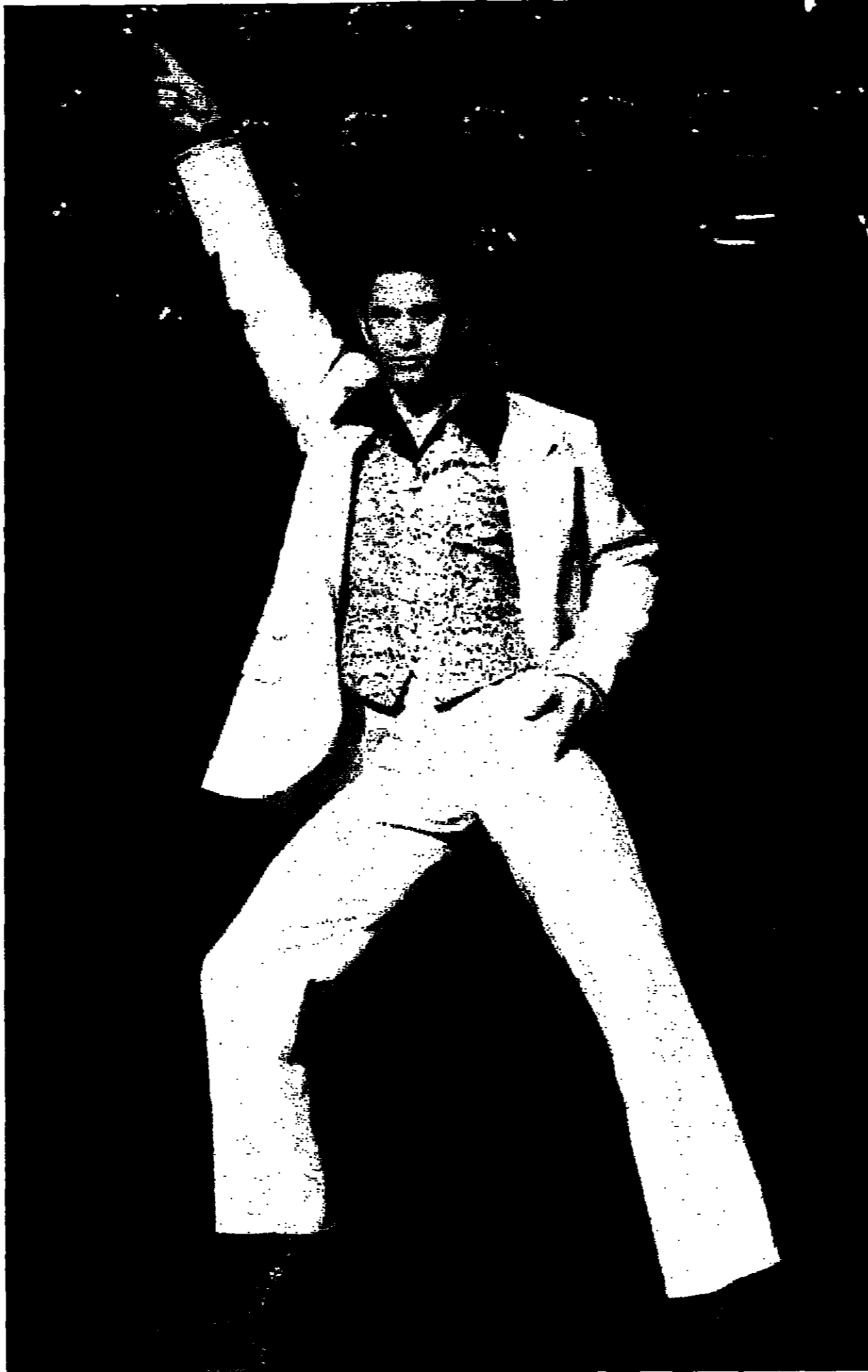
slick, smart Stephanie, or if his dopey chum Billy is driven to despair by a pregnant girlfriend, or if his brother loses his priestly vocation, or if his father overcomes the misery of unemployment and his mother the misery of life with his father, or if there is a rumble between his fellow-Italians and the local Puerto Rican gang? Very little, I fear.

The production team does less than it might to create a sense of place. Some steel girders and pseudo-bridges, film projections of the occasional auto or passing A-train, a bit of adolescent bravado ("Who the hell are you anyway, a nice girl or a slut? — I dunno, both, I guess") are scarcely sufficient to evoke the rundown but volatile Brooklyn of the 1970s.

But that seems of little moment when Arlene Phillips, who choreographs as well as directs, sets Brooklyn dancing. Garcia and Combe sinuously writhe, ecstatically intertwine. Lara Costa and Daryn Crosbie bring terrific panache to a Hispanic number. And every so often the stage whirls to life as girls dressed in hot-pants or trousers like mermaids' fins and men in reds, turquoises and purples hurl themselves hither and yond.

Myself, I'd have liked less plot, more Saturday night fever, especially in the second half. I don't think I've seen a British theatre company exploit their bodies more fully or more exuberantly.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday



Never mind the singing, check the stance: shades of Travolta as Adam Garcia dons the trademark white suit of Tony Manero

Shining lights in the gloom

In its 36 years of activity Scottish Opera had not performed *The Queen of Spades*, and it's quite right that they should — they owe the experience of Tchaikovsky's scaringly operatic case history to their audience, and indeed to themselves. Among the signal pleasures of Tuesday's first night at the Theatre Royal were the energetically alert orchestral playing and the robust staging of David Jones's augmented chorus, and not just singing — the men danced like dervishes in the gambling scene, singing their little hearts out the while.

Energy was certainly the watchword under Richard Armstrong's baton, almost to a fault. He chose brisk tempos and tended to push the music along, especially in the genre scenes; it was often viscerally exciting, but the music needs time to breathe, even to hold back if it is to exert its full hypnotic power.

Purely musically, though, the challenge was largely met. But mounting *The Queen of Spades* is a risk as well as a challenge, very risky indeed for a company strapped for cash — a degree of visual splendour is essential — and with a director-designer with as undistinguished a track record as Yannis Kokkos. Remember his dreary *Tristan, Alceste* and *Tito*? His permanent set — a line of white flats with holes — was fatally lacking in atmosphere which ever location it was supposed to conjure up. St Petersburg Summer Garden, barracks, ballroom or spooky bedchamber. Paucity of lighting kept going dim at crucial moments, so you couldn't see the singers' faces.

Within these unpromising surroundings, Kokkos's direction was embarrassingly fea-

OPERA
Queen of Spades
Glasgow

tureless. Scene after scene which should fill the audience with pity or terror and preferably both sailed past without engendering the slightest frisson. It had never occurred to me that this opera could be boring on stage. Singers needlessly placed too far upstage, purely mechanical, unmotivated movements: we are used to higher standards of direction here.

The burden placed on the singers was a heavy one, and save for Jadwiga Rappé's Countess — an ordinary middle-aged woman who wouldn't frighten a flea — most of them carried it off in triumph. The Ukrainian tenor Vladimir Kuzmenko (Herman) is a real find. His voice has ringing Slavonic plangency, he sings bang in the middle of the notes, and is absolutely tireless, sounding as fresh in the last scene as he had in the first. At first he seemed a less than communicative actor, but the character is anyway fatally introverted, and he went spectacularly mad in the third act.

Elmira Magomedova Veda combines fruity, mezzo-ish tone with a genuinely soprano range, perfect for Lisa. Boris Trajanov sounded far happier as Yevletsky than he had as Rigoletto earlier in the season, and Alexander Poliakov from Latvia (Scottish Opera's casting department has been spreading its net wide) was the elegant Tomsy. Michelle Walton was a sweet Olga, and Nicholas Garrett made something out of little as Surin.

RODNEY MILNES

Weill revisited

Sometimes when an opera falls into obscurity there are perfectly good reasons. Rodney Milnes writes. The burgeoning of interest in Kurt Weill over the past two decades has been extraordinary, but *Die Bürgschaft* (*The Pledge*), plainly a major work, has not been professionally performed anywhere for 40 years, and the fine new production that opened at the Stadttheater in Bielefeld last week did rather explain why.

Premiered in Berlin in 1932, it was his penultimate work before he was forced to flee Germany. The librettist was Caspar Neher, who had designed *Threepenny Opera* and *Mahagonny*, and it is the sort of libretto that should have been swiftly returned to sender, but since Weill was having an affair with Mrs Neher at the time, normal critical give-and-take relations may have been temporarily in abeyance. It is about the effect of political change on human relationships — promising enough given Germany in 1932 — but written in the deadly didactic style of "epic theatre": the characters are pure pasteboard; motivation and dramatic development are purposefully expunged; and even the political change is purely arbitrary.

Weill at the height of his German-period powers was unable to breathe life into this arid stuff; you simply don't care why it is that the grain-merchant Orth ends up look-



ing calmly on while his erstwhile best friend, the cattle-dealer Mattes, is beaten to death by starving peasants — or in Jonathan Eaton's production, actually delivers the *coup de grâce*. The songs and dance rhythms through which Weill was at his most lethal are few and far between — one great waltz, a couple of tangos — and for the most part he is on his best neo-classical behaviour.

The Bielefeld company certainly did the piece proud: it was excellently conducted by the music director Rainer Koch, and directed in appropriately severe epic-theatre style by Eaton, an expat British producer with a good Weill track-record.

The most promising device, insufficiently developed, is a male-voice trio who are by turn blackmailers, thieves, police-agents etc, and the sheer energy of Luca Martin, Andrew Dalley and Mathias Mann commanded great admiration. William Oberholzer and Martin Blasius did what they could with the cardboard protagonists, and Margaret Thompson shone as the wife-and-mother figure, the nearest we get to a real operatic character. The audience displayed unbridled enthusiasm, so I could be wrong in persisting to believe *Bürgschaft* to be the dearest of dead ducks.

THE PAT METHENEY GROUP
THE THREE BELENE ALBUM
IMAGINARY DAY

THE PAT METHENEY GROUP
THE THREE BELENE ALBUM
IMAGINARY DAY

THE PAT METHENEY GROUP
THE THREE BELENE ALBUM
IMAGINARY DAY

AN EPIC LOVE STORY BASED ON JOSEPH CONRAD'S CLASSIC TALE

VINCENT PEREZ • RACHEL WILSON

AMY FOSTER

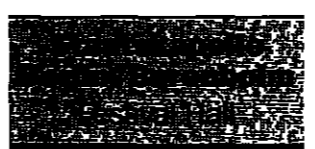
OPENS TOMORROW AT SELECTED CINEMAS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CONCERTS: Barenboim's Beethoven; cello masterclass

Cheer the London marathon

It is not often that concerts have such a sense of occasion about them as Daniel Barenboim's appearance with the Staatskapelle Berlin on Tuesday did, but then the first instalment of his Beethoven series on the South Bank signalled the beginning of one of this season's major musical events. In six programmes he is staging a musical marathon, playing and conducting all the composer's concertos and symphonies, and here he made a perfectly paced start.

Leading off with the First Piano Concerto, a logical enough opening even though it was composed after the Second, Barenboim proved again that he is simply one of the world's best musicians in the world today. Certainly, few others would be capable of this undertaking: somehow he managed to be at once both



totally absorbed in the solo part and attentive to the orchestra, conducting with whichever hand happened to be free.

Barenboim may have no patience with the "authentic" movement, but while this was unmistakably Beethoven for today it was also true to the spirit of the composer's time. In the concerto he used a very modest-sized orchestra, which made for wonderful transparency of sound; indeed, the aristocratic tone of Berlin's oldest orchestra showed itself right in the opening bars. This approach also underlined the chamber-like qualities of the music, and the orchestra fol-

lowed Barenboim's flexible tempos with natural ease. In the dreamy Largo the notes took on supple, breathing life, but not everything was soft-grained: Barenboim turned out some fiery solo playing in the first movement and shaped a crisp, dancing finale.

Beethoven the idealist was balanced with Beethoven the revolutionary: after the interval came an urgent account of the *Heroic Symphony*. Here the orchestra was heard at its finest, in the blazing magnificence of the opening chords and the dark colours of what followed.

The funeral march was full of pent-up emotion, the scherzo came across with unusual force, and in the finale Barenboim pointed up rich detail while never losing sight of the music's final goal.

JOHN ALLISON

Stars on strings



For sheer accomplishment, nothing was better than David Geringas's performance of the Haydn. But why such a brilliant instrumentalist and otherwise conscientious stylist should indulge in a first-movement cadenza which has nothing to do with Haydn and everything to do with Bach is hard to fathom. If Janos Starker in the Strauss seemed to be less in authority than Geringas it was because he was waiting for the death

GERALD LARNER

كندا من الاصل

THE TIME
NEW MOVIE
Iron
Y

"OH UNADULTERATED JOY... IRRESISTIBLE STUFF!"

"A DELIGHTFUL COMEDY"

—Premiere

SHARDA

One of the foreign language

STARTS TOMORROW AT 7:30 PM
CURZON MAYFAIR
CLOOTON DON'T LEM
BRIGHTFORD

NEW MOVIES: Try as it might, Adrian Lyne's version of Nabokov's *Lolita* remains a distasteful bore, says Geoff Brown

Irons in the mire is not a pretty sight

You can't miss *Lolita*. She's that saucy young girl, aged 12 or so, who ensures the attention of Humbert Humbert, professor of literature, by lolling on the lawn near a water sprinkler, reading a movie magazine, a bare leg twirling in the air, cotton clothing all wet and clingy. The actress's name is Dominique Swain, then a 14-year-old plucked straight out of Malibu High School.

You can't miss the director either. Adrian Lyne is his name; his portfolio includes 9's *Weeks* and *Fatal Attraction*, and he doesn't hide his light under a bushel. During the course of Humbert's obsession, fluorescent lights flicker while the camera tilts madly, or blurs, or grabs a close-up of an ice-cream soda being whipped erotically into life. Welcome to *Lolita*, shot in the autumn and winter of 1995-96, and doused in controversy ever since.

Remember that 1996 was an election year in America. Bob Dole was crowing about family values and Hollywood was in the dock. Distributors and exhibitors shrank from the prospect of a nymph and paedophile, put on to film by a director with a high ratio of box-office hits, but a poor record for restraint and fine taste. Subsequent media coverage of paedophile incidents across the globe hardly helped Lyne's case. But distribution deals need to be honoured and money made. So here it is, two years later: a film more likely to bore than deprave, choked as it is by the director's crass style and a script that gets stuck in a rut.

Can anything be salvaged, such as Vladimir Nabokov's novel? The adaptation by Stephen Schiff certainly sticks closer to the novel's structure than Nabokov's own for the Stanley Kubrick film of 1961. Some of the master's playful prose appears on the soundtrack, in Jeremy Irons's commentary. But a few rescued words mean little when weighed against an avalanche of distorting image, or a narrative that forgoes Nabokov's satirical darts for the dull repetitions of a road movie. In Kubrick's film, Peter Sellers made something of a variety-turn out of Clare Quilty, the depraved playwright who shadows Humbert and Lolita; rather than, though, than the excessive melodrama of Frank Langella's version, scarcely seen without threatening shadows, lurid camera angles, or the sound of insects meeting a noisy death.

Early scenes adopt an enjoyably amused tone. You have to laugh as Melanie Griffith's voracious landlady, Lolita's mother, chats up her new lodger Humbert with "I myself worship the French

- Lolita**
Warner West End
18, 137 mins
Unsubtle treatment of Nabokov's classic
- Wild Man Blues**
Screen on Baker Street
12, 102 mins
Woody Allen reveals all, or does he?
- Martha — Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence**
Odeon West End
15, 88 mins
Glib and tepid British comedy
- The Hanging Garden**
ABC Piccadilly
15, 91 mins
Adventurous Canadian drama
- Amy Foster**
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
12, 113 mins
Dull tale of outcasts in love
- Shall We Dance?**
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 117 mins
Art-house hit from Japan
- Western**
Renoir, 15, 134 mins
Dawdling French road movie with a human face



Choked by the director's crass style and a script that gets stuck in a rut: the 14-year-old Dominique Swain — playing a role younger than her real age — and Jeremy Irons in *Lolita*

tongue". Irons himself never manages the seedy grandiloquence of Kubrick's Humbert, James Mason, but his urbane English manner heightens the comedy of the professor's paranoiac obsession and enforced entanglement (marriage, ultimately) with the egregious landlady. Much play is made of Lolita's gum-chewing and her teeth brace (she plonks it into Humbert's wine glass). And throughout the camera glazes on the period props rounded up to portray the late 1940s scene: the cars, the radio sets, the billboards, the Oreo cookies, all the junk of popular culture that defines Lolita's world.

But endless period details are no substitute for Nabokov's satire on the emerging postwar America. The film's hollowness grows once Charlotte is conveniently killed, leaving Humbert free to embark with the capricious and manipulative Lolita, bickering away days and nights as they cross the country by car. One motel is followed by another. One suggestive sex scene is followed by another.

Some might decry the avoidance of moral judgment, but the film is damaged far more by Irons's lack of passion, the script's dull stretches and Lyne's gift for visual overstatement. Nabokov's novel is stripped bare of subtleties to become a bald, plodding tale

of a paedophile's obsession: not a pretty sight. From Humbert we move swiftly to Woody Allen in *Wild Man Blues*, a fascinating documentary following his progress through some of Europe's finest hotels during a gruelling tour with his New Orleans jazz band. Huddled in a coat on the plane at the start, he vents his dislike of dogs. And the neuroses just keep coming as he and Soon-Yi Previn (then his girlfriend, now his wife) are whisked from Paris to Madrid to Venice to Bologna. He pokes uncertainly at a Spanish omelette. He complains about shower mats. He is part puterulent adolescent, part old curmudgeon.

Previn takes it all in her stride; in this view of their relationship, she wears the trousers. As the camera rolls, though, you cannot help wondering for whose benefit all this is being filmed. At one point Allen offered himself to the documentary director Terry Zwigoff, who made *Crumb*, that disturbing portrait of the cartoonist Robert Crumb. In the event he retreated, settling instead for the soft-soiled approach of Barbara Kopple (*Harrison County USA*), more accustomed to filming musician struggles: that was the artist's permission to fix to a psychiatrist's couch. Sometimes Allen confides to the camera; at others, the camera aims to be the fly on the wall. It is an uneasy mix.

Yet no matter how impure or cosmetic Kopple's approach, the film is compelling viewing. We hear pleasant music-making; we learn about Allen's bathroom requirements; best of all, we meet his parents, alive and kicking in their nineties, still waiting for their son to settle down like a nice Jewish boy.

The film is certainly far funnier than *Martha Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence*, the latest British bid to be the next *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. In fact, the film it most often resembles, in material at least, is *The Knack*, from the heyday of the *Swinging Sixties*.

Three male friends get entangled with the same American girl, although none is aware of the others' involvement. London is always sunny and always smart. The players — Rufus Sewell, Tom Hollander, Joseph Fiennes, and visiting American Monica Potter — launch a charm offensive, but the jokes are wan, the spirit ungenerous, and Nick Hamm's direction indifferent.

For originality this week, you cannot beat *The Hanging Garden*, a striking first feature from Thom Fitzgerald, a young film-maker based in Nova Scotia. Fact and fantasy, past and present, are delightfully interwoven in this highly personal tale about sexuality, family, and the pull of memories.

An overweight teenager, oppressed at home, appears to hang himself, but then returns for his sister's wedding as a slim, gay man of 25. The story comes exuberantly styled, drenched with floral imagery and pounding music. Sometimes there is so much poetic artifice that we gasp for air, especially since Fitzgerald likes to ram the camera very close to the actors.

Luckily, they are a memorable lot: Chris Leavins as the passive returning hero; Troy Venotie, a non-professional, as his brooding 17-year-old

self; Kerry Fox as the obstreperous sister trying to keep hearth and home together. Artifice dominates. Amy Foster too, but it comes with no personal colouring. Actors in 19th-century togs wade through mud or brood on Cornish cliffs. The rain machine works overtime. On the soundtrack, John Barry whips up an orchestral storm.

Love flickers into life between Rachel Weisz, a dour servant girl in a remote coastal village, and Vincent Perez, the lone Russian survivor of a shipwreck. But happiness is not theirs; nor ours. Joseph Conrad provided the story; the computerised direction is by Beban Kidron, who is worthy of better things.

Next we whirl on to *Shall We Dance?*, in which a middle-aged Japanese businessman acquires a new lease of life by taking ballroom dancing lessons. Slim stuff? Not a bit. Masayuki Sudo's film, already a sizeable art-house success in America, wins your heart with its friendly attitude and observant comments on Japan's strict social codes.

The film's message is optimistic: take a chance in life. Koji Yakusho is the ballroom novice, although the film is nearly stolen by Naoto Takenaka as an office mouse who becomes a Latin lover on the dancefloor. Manuel Poirier's film *Western* is no beefy drama either: we just follow the meanderings of a pair of male immigrants, one Catalan, one Russian, as they travel round Brittany seeking friendship and women. Poirier obviously loves his characters, but despite the film's human face you need patience, and a love of everything French, to share his joy for 134 minutes.

lights gloom

OPERA

revisited

The Night

revisited

“AN UNADULTERATED JOY... IRRESISTIBLE STUFF!” — Empire

“A DELIGHTFUL COMEDY” — Premiere

SHALL WE DANCE?

One of the most popular foreign language films of all time.

STARTS TOMORROW

CURZON MAYFAIR CHELSEA CINEMA

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

‘Gripping drama’

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

LOLITA
Leslie Ilesiah Thomas, 20: See this enthralling film — it's in a class of its own. I had not thought that Jeremy Irons was capable of giving this kind of performance.

MARATHA — MEET FRANK, DANIEL AND LAURENCE
Leslie Sassy: The young cast of this romantic comedy is excellent.

DOM
Dom: This film was a real laugh from start to finish. The romantic side was only nominally mushy.

EMMA
Emma: A decent little movie which is well worth you parting with a few quid. In a good

SNAP VERDICT

cast Tom Hollander in particular gives a really excellent performance.

Damian: A brilliant, pacy romantic comedy — exit last week's *Sliding Doors*, enter *Martha — Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence*. Monica Potter, who plays Martha, is a dead ringer for Julia Roberts, but the film is none the worse for that.

NFT plans move to Soho

A £30m project could include a new 'national cinema centre'

The National Film Theatre has entered into negotiations to move to a huge new site in Soho, provisionally to be called the National Cinema Centre. Adrian Wootton, who runs the NFT at the South Bank, confirmed that talks were under way with Westminster City Council and a developer, The Benchmark Group, which in turn has entered into a joint venture for an estimated £30 million development at the corner of Marshall Street and Poland Street.

The NFT is still conducting a feasibility study into the project. But according to Wootton, plans are likely to include four or five cinemas, a bar, a café and enhanced facilities for the London Film Festival. Existing educational and archival activities will also be expanded. The disadvantage would be that the new NFT, though in the heart of London's film industry, would be tucked away in a side street.

"We are hoping to make a recommendation to the board of directors within a month," Wootton says. "My brief is to

use brief. Plans will include knocking down offices and a council-owned car park, which is no longer structurally safe.

"Ideally we would like to see it redeveloped as soon as possible because both parties have properties generating income. We hope to start work in early 1999," says Mr K.C. Wong, joint managing director of Benchmark. "It's still early days, but detailed negotiations will start within the next few weeks. It's a complex site, and we are still running the numbers to see how to maximise returns for ourselves and Westminster."

The NFT, which will apply for lottery and government funding, announced it was seeking a new home in 1996. "The existing site is cramped and can't be redeveloped," Wootton added. "It's under Waterloo Bridge so we can't go up, we can't go down because of the water table, and we can't go sideways because of the Festival Hall and National Theatre. Moving allows us to provide an integrated home."

CARON LIPMAN

“SMART, FUNNY AND EFFORTLESSLY GRIPPING.”

“ONE OF THAT TINY GROUP OF SEQUELS THAT IS BETTER THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. WITTY, MORE INVENTIVELY PLOTTED AND MUCH, MUCH SCARIER.”

“ONE OF THE MOST SEDUCTIVE, HORRIFYING FILMS YOU’LL SEE ALL YEAR... DO YOU LIKE SCARY MOVIES?... I LOVED THIS!”

A FILM BY WES CRAVEN

SCREAM

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON

DAVID NEVE COURTNEY SARAH MICHELLE JAMIE JERRY JADA LIEV
ARPHETTE CAMPBELL COX GILLAR KENNEDY O'CONNELL PINKETT SCHREIBER

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

VIDEOS

Including Nil By Mouth

LONDON

WOLFGANG HOLZHAAR: The renowned Austrian baritone returns to the Wigmore for the first of two recitals...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Pat Atchler conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at a special concert...

THREE BY HAROLD PINTER: The Collection and The Lower 10th. A splendid cast includes Pinter...

WHISKEYTOWN: Following the success of their recently released album, Stragglers & Amateurs...

YARD GIRL: Rebecca Prichard's latest account of this rough, wild life of girls on the streets of Hackney...

CLONBER: The National Theatre production of Patrick Marber's hit play about doctory personal relations...

THE SPECTACLE: The Dame is back. New characters are said to include a young Rupert Murdoch...

KAT AND THE KINGS: Eminent new 1950s rock 'n' roll musical about a South African group...

LEBENSBRÄU: Jack Hall in British premiere of Israel Harel's Jewish set in Germany in the year 2003...

A QUESTION OF MERCY: The US comedy from the Long Wharf Theatre. New York in an exchange visit...

BRECKDOWN (15): Kurt Russell and wife, crossing the States by car, try to outdo a rival in the desert...

MY SON THE PAMATIC (15): Fighting multi-cultural comedy-drama, written by Hans Kunda...

SQUEAM 2 (16): New Campbell and the hooded killer return in the sequel to Wes Craven's suburban post-modern thriller...

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (16): The Coen brothers' deconstructed parody of Raymond Chandler...

CURRENT: ADOPTED AND LOST: The movie stars John Goodman, Jeff Bridges, and Janeane Garofalo...

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

Sharon directs a line with English cast in Sean Fine's comedy...

NORTHAMPTON: The Berlioz Symphony Orchestra's current programme of four touches down here tonight...

STAFFORD-UPON-AVON: Paul Popenwell and Ryan Pope make their RSC debuts...

Bramble: Rupa Malayia: A decade of Art. 1987-1997...

LONG RUNNERS: Blood Runners: Phoenix (0171-350 8800)...

THE UNEXPECTED MAN: Ewan Adams and Michael Gambon play strangers on a train...

SAUNCEY JACK AND THE SPACE VIDEOS: David Schofield plays the saucy one in sci-fi musical...

SHOCKED! PETER: Julian Crouch and Phelim McDermott deconstruct the Strawberries...

SHOW BOAT: Hel Prince's spectacular lavish Broadway production...

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (16): A writer's personal and professional life unravels...

JACKIE BROWN (16): Pam Grier's money smuggles live wife out of trouble...

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (16): The New York journalist gets involved in a sensational Savannah murder trial...

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: Adapted by Stephen Mallat. The most thrilling and chilling play for years...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Directed by Jacques Offenbach. NOW SHOW TO DEC 98...

ARTS Gem of a rough diamond

NEW ON VIDEO

NIL BY MOUTH: For Parth. 18, 1997. GARY OLDMAN turned to his own upbringing in London's East End...

AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS

Entertainment, 15, 1997. IMPISH sequel to the cult horror comedy of 1981...

THE LAST JOURNEY

BFI Video, U, 1995. A TEXTBOOK example of the wonders one exuberant director can perform even when trapped in the murky regions of the 1930s British B-movie...

NEW CLASSICAL CDs

Essential Romeo; unmissable budget Holst; Perahia's solo Bach. Adorable and thereafter he thinks of little else...



The consistently excellent Ray Winstone in Gary Oldman's award-winning directorial debut, Nil by Mouth

Camera of 1933, with two young boys giving places: John Mills and Ida Lupino.

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

PolyGram, IS, 1997. THE team behind Shallow Grave and Trainspotting bravely strikes out and pastures new in this bizarre mix of comedy, fantasy and romance...

VERONIKA VOSS

Connoisseur, 12, 1981. THE Connoisseur collection of Fassbinder films is rounded off with the release of this bleak and shimmering black-and-white drama about the drugged decline of a former film star of the Nazi era...

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

HOLST

Benji Mora: Somerset Rhapsody; Edgdon Heath: Hammersmith etc. RSN/Lloyd-Jones. Nazos & 553696. \$4.99. EVERYBODY knows The

RECITAL

Hilary Finch

BACH

English Suite 1.3 & 6 Murray Perahia Sony SK 60276. \$15.99. THE glorification of God and the recreation of the mind, no less, were Bach's objectives in working at his own particular patterns of chord progressions in his music...

CLASSICAL CDs

Gounod with Alagna

And I'll to to anim

From... director... variety...

A... variety... variety...

Geoff Brown

OPERA & BALLET

COLUMBIA 0171 882 8800 (9am-6pm) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA... THE ROYAL OPERA at the Royal Albert Hall...

THEATRES

APOLLO LABAYTS: Hamlet... DOCTOR DOLITTLE... THE REAL INSPECTOR... COMEDY 0171 398 1771...

HER MAJESTY

Palace Theatre 0171-494 4444... LES MISERABLES... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA...

LES MISERABLES

Palace Theatre 0171-494 4444... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... NATIONAL THEATRE...

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre... SAUNCEY JACK AND THE SPACE VIKENS... ELTON JOHN'S DAVIDS...

SUNDAY 17 MAY 1998

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE... A GALA CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM... BARBICAN CENTRE...

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainment team on 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313.

THE TIMES THEATRE Staging... And I'll to to anim... Mystery journey... DANCE CandoCo... CANDOCo calls itself dance but pushes back the definition boundaries of the term...

كاندا من الاصل

Shielding witness from defendant in person

Regina v Brown (Milton) Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Patten... prevent the defendant's inappropriate questioning, gave rise to no criticism by the defendant on the applications made to the Court of Appeal.

1 That the trial judge, without descending into the arena or acting on behalf of the defence, should ask such questions as he saw fit to test the reliability of prosecution witnesses... A trial was not fair if a defendant, by choosing to represent himself, gained the advantage he would not otherwise have had of abusing the rules in relation to relevance and repetition which applied when witnesses were questioned.

Mitigating factors of little significance Regina v Dossanjh Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Butterfield and Mr Justice Richards... The increase in illicit importation of alcohol and tobacco, contrary to section 170(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and associated losses and problems, such as under-age drinking, loss of profit to legitimate businesses and road traffic dangers, called for guidelines on sentencing to ensure uniformity of approach.

Scene of accidental injury in bus is the highway

Hallinan v Director of Public Prosecutions Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Beldam... The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by David Hallinan, by way of case stated, against his conviction on April 24, 1997 by Harrow Justices of failing to stop and report an accident, and failing to give information or documents.

requiring, give his name and address and also the name and address of the owner and the identification marks of the vehicle... The duty was satisfied, he submitted, if the driver was provided the facility for the exchange of details when the police officer arrived and Mr Hallinan had provided the details sought.

Justices to pay costs of judicial review Regina v Newcastle Upon Tyne Justices, Ex parte Devine Before Mr Justice Latham... The applicant had failed to pay community charge for periods between 1990 and 1993 and was made the subject of three liability orders. On November 22, 1996, the justices found that the applicant had culpably neglected to pay the sums owing and fixed a term of imprisonment to be postponed upon the applicant paying £5 a week.

THE TIMES SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP WITH 20% OFF AT SELECTED STORES. Get 20% off in selected stores such as Liberty, Dorothy Perkins and Burton Menswear. only when you choose this Saturday's Times. You can't afford to miss it.

Deciding whether shop is large Haskins Garden Centres Ltd v East Dorset District Council Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Brian Smedley... In deciding whether a shop was a large shop for the purposes of Sunday trading, the court should take an extended rather than a snapshot view.

Deciding whether shop is large (continued) The fact that part of the shop was closed off when it opened on Easter Sunday, although the whole shop was open during the rest of the week, did not mean that it was not a large shop in the terms of the Sunday Trading Act 1994.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM An evening with Toni Morrison TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited new novel, Paradise (Chaito & Windus £16.99), at Times/Dillons Forum on Monday May 18. This event, chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, offers readers the rare opportunity to ask Morrison questions about her life and work.

BRITAIN TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 1989 AMERICAN BEST OFFER BEST FIRM CLASS OFFER Glasgow from £69 return inc. taxes

كندا من الاصل

Bargains of the week: a Titanic weekend in Alnwick; trainspotting in Belgium; sub-aqua in the Maldives



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

BRITAIN

MAY will be a merry month indeed at Heseason's Mullion Holiday Park near Helston, Cornwall, as it celebrates its tenth anniversary with cabaret, comedians and a circus. Prices start from £42 a week with four sharing a bungalow and many activities included. Details: 01502 500500.

THE Atlantic, Jersey, in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, launches a new deal on May 22 with dinner, B&B, hire car and use of health club at £100 a night for a minimum two-night stay. Details: 01534 44101.

TREYARNON Youth Hostel and Hartlyn Surf School in north Cornwall have teamed up to offer fully inclusive surfing breaks from £90 for two nights with coaching and equipment included. Details: 01841 520322.

A TITANIC weekend at the White Swan in Alnwick sounds unlikely, but the hotel does feature a black-tie dinner dance with cabaret. Prices start from £42 a week with four sharing a bungalow and many activities included. Details: 0161-238 5206.

LARGE savings for children on walking and houseparty breaks have been announced by Countrywide Holidays. A week's guided walking tour in the Lakes will cost adults from £280 with one child, aged four to 15, paying only £30 and the second £155. Details: 0161-446 2226.

EUROPE

SPRINGTIME in Paris for £50 is this month's offer from Leisure Direction and includes two nights in a two-star hotel. You will have to drive there yourself but the Channel crossing is part of the price, which is based on four travelling. Details: 0181-324 3030.

SKOPELOS for a week's self-catering for £189 is among several offers to Greece and its islands available from May 15 with Kosmar. This one begins with a flight from Gatwick. Details: 0181-368 6833.

MALTA "moneysavers" are on offer from Belleair with a week's self-catering in St Julians for departures up to May 20 costing £239, based on four sharing, and a fortnight's B&B at a five-star hotel in the resort costing £722 for departures between May 21 and 25. Fly from Gatwick. Details: 0181-785 3266.

ORCHIDS, brown bears and birds like the alpine chough and golden eagle abound in Spain's Picos de Europa - but you will have to find them yourself with the help of guidance notes on

Wildlife Worldwide's self-drive tours. Available this month and next, they cost £475 with flights from Heathrow, car hire and a week's B&B. Details: 0181-667 9158.

STEAM enthusiasts can join a coach tour from Derbyshire to see the little trains of Belgium on May 22. The four-day trip to the Ardennes with Andrew's of Tideswell costs from £155 with B&B at a four-star hotel, train rides and Channel crossing. Details: 01298 871222.

A VISIT to Rome, plus Valletta, Dubrovnik and Venice are included in a Bank Holiday cruise starting on May 23 and available from Festival Cruises. Prices start at £475, a £260 saving, with return flights to Italy from Stansted and full board. Details: 0171-436 0827.

IDEAL INTERLUDES will interrupt a week's walking tour in the Alsace foothills beginning on May 24 with wine-tastings, vineyard visits and picnic lunches. The holiday is one of Arbeller & Clark's wine tours and costs £895 with coach travel via Le Shuttle, B&B and six meals. Details: 01730 893344.



The intriguing city of Budapest is available at a £100 discount next month from Kirker Holidays. Fly out any day with British Airways and three nights with breakfast will cost £252. Details: 0171-231 3333.

LONG-HAUL

FAR East deals are available from Premier Holidays with eight nights on Langkawi, Malaysia, costing £499; a twin-centre, eight-night stay in Bangkok and Pattaya starting at £523; and four nights in Hong Kong from June 15 to 30 costing £379, all with return flights. Details: 01223 516677.

DIVING in the Maldives is on offer from Regal Holidays from May 16. The week's holiday is based on a safari boat and costs £999 including flights, dives and full board. Details: 01353 779950.

CAYO LARGO, an island 110 miles south of Havana where you can stay in one of seven hotels and eat and drink in any of the others, is now included in Hayes and Jarvis's Cuba programme from £399 for a week with flights from Gatwick and Manchester. Havana for a week starts at £349. Details: 0181-222 7833.

AN INSIGHT into Jordan is promised by The Imaginative Traveller on tours starting on May 21 and 28. Fly from Heathrow to Amman and visit desert castles, Aqaba and Pe-

tra for £710, including hotel accommodation with some meals and travel by coach and taxi. Details: 0181-742 8612.

A MAGIC OF INDIA tour departing from Heathrow on June 6 is on offer from Bales Worldwide. It includes Agra and the Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Delhi. Priced from £725 and nine days, with half-board and sightseeing. Details: 01306 885991.

EILAT for £305 in June is an unusually good summer offer and includes a week's B&B at a hotel on the coast. The Longwood Holidays deal is available with flights from Gatwick or Manchester on June 15. Details: 0181-551 4494.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

WEEKEND TRAVEL

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 1989

CHECK-IN

FAX: 0171 782 7824

EUROPEAN WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS table with destinations and prices.

USA-CANADA STATESAVERS 0990 133 343

STA TRAVEL WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

BRIDGE THE WORLD TRAVEL CENTRE AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS! BEST FIRST CLASS OFFERS

Kinetics In a class of our own!

JUST AMERICA

FLIGHTSEEKERS

CHECK-IN USA

MAJOR USA

FARESAVERS

JETLINE

Monument Travel

FLIGHTBOOKERS

FLIGHT SEARCHERS

FLIGHTWISE

Charter Flight Centre

KENYA SPECIALISTS

FLIGHT CENTRE

GERMAN TRAVEL CENTRE

Car Rental

DELTA WORLDWIDE

Jetworld

benz

AIRLINE NETWORK

AIRLINE NETWORK The National Sales Centre for over 100 leading scheduled airlines...

FLIGHTSEATS

WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

TRAILFINDERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Glasgow from £69, Paris from £86, Dublin from £79, Amsterdam from £85, Brussels from £88, Copenhagen from £122. All we cut is the price. British Midland The Airline for Europe

RUGBY UNION

Support for Luyt could spark call for boycott

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE menle of administrators in England and South Africa will be laid bare today...

In London, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) management board will receive the recommendations of the four-man team...

If English rugby can show itself to be capable of effective government, supporters and sponsors will take heart...

The signs are that Luyt will receive a vote of confidence from the 14 provincial unions...

A sensible solution might be Luyt's withdrawal from the Sarfu presidency in favour of Slias Nkanunu...

National Sports Council (NSC) will call on the Government to boycott South Africa's scheduled international commitments...

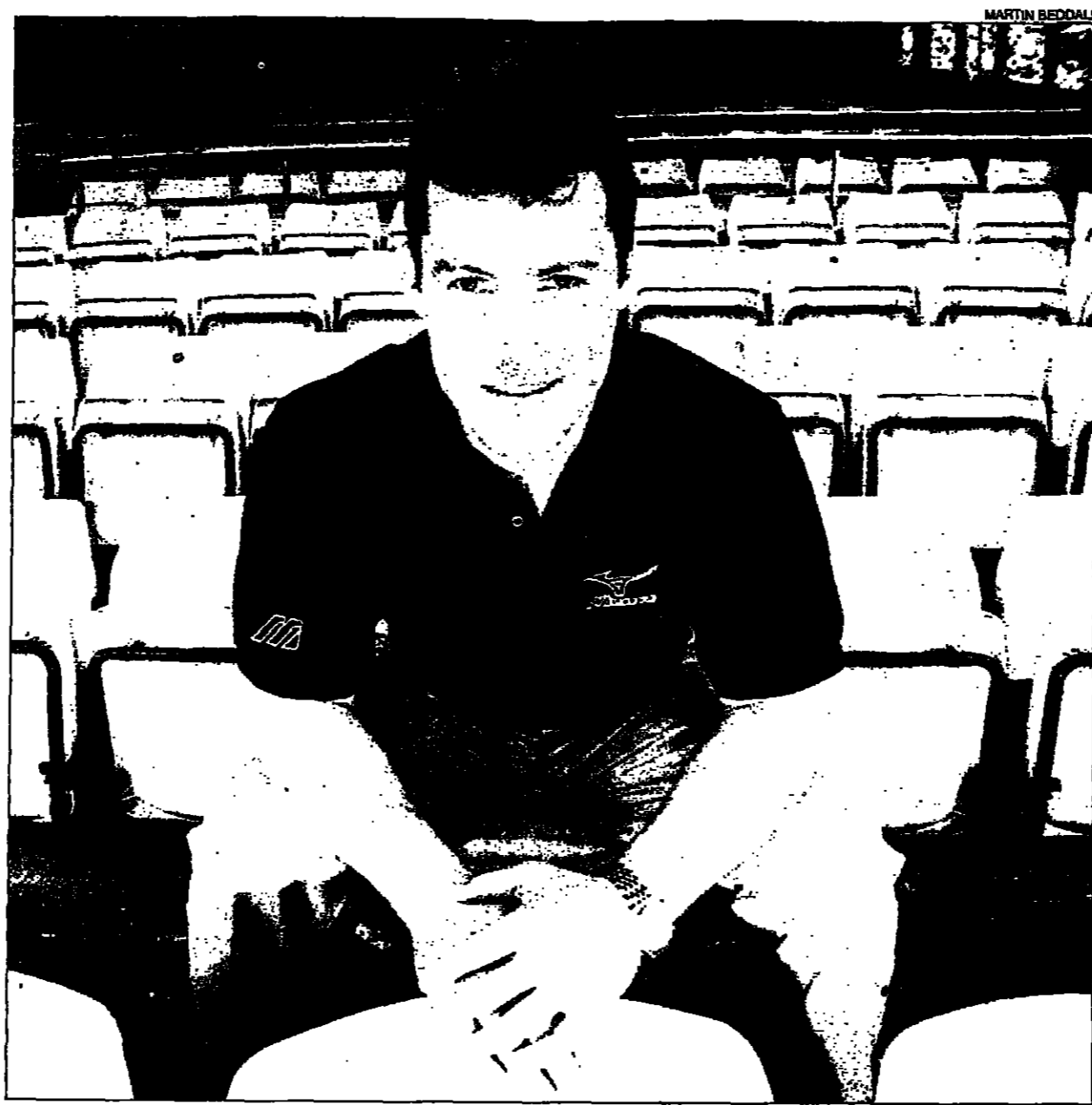
The consequences of such a move would be to destabilise world rugby to an even greater degree than the move to professionalism...

If Luyt, 63, remains in office, the three home unions will be invited to withdraw from their tours by the NSC...

That many players based in England would welcome a summer off is neither here nor there. The three unions are contracted to tour...

The weight and the waistline remain the same, but the intervening years have otherwise been kind and Rees has undoubtedly prospered...

Self-deprecation is part of the Rees charm, although his team-mates — and all Wasps supporters — would acknowledge that he is an indispensable member of the side...



Rees feels at home in the Sudbury stand where he once spent the night before a cup quarter-final for Wasps

Rees still getting his kicks

Twelve years ago, as a carefree teenager, Gareth Rees was told that if he pulled his socks up — literally — cut his hair and lost a stone in weight...

He is certainly not one for monosyllabic grunts. Half an hour in his company is an enlightening experience, offering, as he does, forthright and sanguine comment on rugby as well as life in general...

Take, for example, Rees on the new breed of players: "They are becoming mere clones of footballers," he said.

Mark Souster meets one of rugby union's old school hoping for Twickenham glory

There are those who would say that the Tetley's Bitter Cup final on Saturday, when he is expected to play at full back, could be his last...

Rees remembers clearly the 1986 final against Bath, when, as a callow 18-year-old, he had to seek permission from Ian Beer, his headmaster at Harrow and a future Rugby Football Union president...

W asps had catered into a 13-3 lead when reality hit Rees in the shape of the Bath back. "This is easy", when, from a scrum ten yards out, Paul Simpson came at me...

Bentley is back to empower Halifax

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN BENTLEY is back and ready to take the JJB Super League by storm. The hero of the British Isles tour of South Africa last year will return for Halifax Blue Sox in the game away to Warrington on Sunday...

The powerful wing has been stung by those who questioned his loyalty to Halifax, particularly after he opted to join the Lions tour in preference to fulfilling his commitments to the rugby league club.

Bentley's popularity on the Thrum Hall terraces dipped even more when he damaged a rib cartilage in his second match back — a world club championship game against Brisbane Broncos — and was ruled out for the rest of the season.

He was yesterday included, alongside Halifax's recent signing, Jamie Bloom, by the coach, John Pendlebury in 17-strong squad for the trip to Warrington as the Yorkshiremen seek to continue their impressive start to the Super League season.

Bentley was not due to rejoin the Blue Sox squad until May 1 but arrived back a week early. It gave him the opportunity to reacquaint himself, more significantly, it illustrated his determination to respect the club's faith in him.

Everything about last year was all wrong and it was no fault of Halifax. I wanted to go on the Lions tour, it was something I never foresaw, and I don't think anybody could really begrudge me being selfish.

South Africa, the rugby union World Cup holders, will begin the defence of their title in Scotland next year.

Murrayfield will be the venue for six matches during the tournament while Hampden Park, the home of Scottish football, is expected to stage the Springboks' opening pool game. Four pool games, a quarter-final play-off and a quarter-final will be staged at Murrayfield...

SPORT IN BRIEF

Couch in line to receive licence

BOXING: Jane Couch, Britain's only woman world champion, yesterday looked forward to joining sport's big earners. The 27-year-old from Fleetwood has taken the first step towards being accepted into the male-dominated world of British boxing after being recommended for a professional licence to fight in her own country.

Couch was recommended for a professional licence by the British Boxing Board of Control's (BBBC) Western Area Committee at a meeting held in Devon and attended by John Morris, the secretary. Couch said: "I'm chuffed. No licence meant no fight and no money in this country I love. Now we can improve the financial situation."

The recommendation, which came after a routine interview, will now go before the full board, pending medical reports.

TENNIS: Karen Cross, the Great Britain No 2, was beaten 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 by Amelie Cochetoux, the No 4 seed, of France, in a first-round match played over two days at the women's Challenger tournament at Cardiff. The 24-year-old left-hander, from Devon, was leading 6-2, 1-2 when rain halted play on Monday but she could not keep up the same, consistent form yesterday.

It leaves Jo Ward, of Middlesex, who plays Lubomira Bacheva, of Bulgaria, in the second round today, as the only British survivor of the four home players in the original 32-strong draw.

BOXING: The contest between Joe Bugner and James "Bonecrusher" Smith for the vacant World Boxing Federation (WBF) belt will take place on Queensland's Gold Coast on July 4. Bugner, 48, the former British and European champion, last fought for a world title in 1975 when he was outboxed by Muhammad Ali.

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow and James Acheson-Gray, the No 1 seeds, dropped just one set as they retained their British Land amateur doubles title at Moreton Morrell, beating Nigel Pendrig and Tom Giddale 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 in the final.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BADMINTON, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, CRICKET, FOOTBALL, ENGLISH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION, ORIENTEERING, RUGBY UNION, RUGBY LEAGUE, SAILING, SHOOTING.

TENNIS

Table listing tennis results from Hamburg, Wimbledon, and other tournaments.

SWIMMING: OLD RIVALS INTRODUCE CONTEST INTENDED TO MATCH BOAT RACE

Universities take to Channel

FROM rowing to tiddlywinks, the sporting rivalry of Oxford and Cambridge has always had historic intensity. Now the universities are to hold their first swimming relay race across the English Channel. Martin Davies, the president of Oxford University swimming club, has challenged Cambridge to the match across the 21-mile straits in July...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures including Cricket, Football, and other events.

OTHER SPORT

Table listing other sports fixtures including Horse, Swimming, and other events.

RUGBY LEAGUE: BLACKMORE RETURNS FOR UNBEATEN LEEDS AT THE STOOP

Mardon back to boost Broncos

LONDON have lost three of their four Super League games so far this season, but are ready for the challenge. "We are well rested and ready to give Leeds their hardest game of the season," Matterson said. "We are focused on ending their unbeaten run."

CRICKET

Universities refuse to be thwarted by Russell

BY JOHN STERN

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss): British Universities (2pts) beat Gloucestershire by seven runs... Russell had missed a sharp stumping chance down the leg side the ball before, and managed to find the mid-wicket boundary off Lewis despite the presence of three fielders in that area.



Killeen, the Durham fast bowler, strives for extra pace in the match against Scotland at the Riverside Ground yesterday

Durham overcome host of problems

BY RICHARD HOBSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Scotland won toss): Durham beat Scotland by two wickets... SCOTLAND are basing themselves at Chester-le-Street for the World Cup next season and, yesterday, they gave instant approval to what will become their adopted home.

but, in the closing stages of a neat partnership, it appeared that a familiar weakness would prove costly. Their batsmen are adept at crease occupation but struggle to improve. Lockie batted through 40 overs in accumulating 54 before he top-edged a pull to Speight.

TENNIS

Rusedski takes rain check as challenge slips

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN HAMBURG

PLAYING on clay is not Greg Rusedski's favourite occupation at the best of times, but on a cold, windy and interminably damp day in northern Germany, it became a nightmare. Against Emilio Alvarez, a qualifier from Spain, who prefers the red sand beneath his feet, his job was made all the harder by three rain delays.



Rusedski: troubled

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

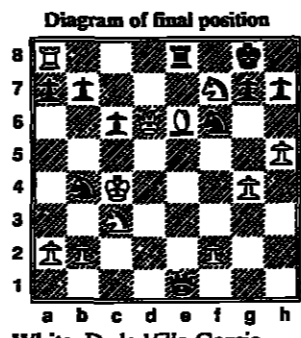
BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This was a curiosity from the TGR high game. What is the only lead to beat South's Seven Hearts contract?

North-South were playing a strong No-Trump, so a rebid of Two No-Trumps over Two Hearts would show a minimum hand. North's rebid of Three No-Trumps showed around 16 points and a semi-balanced hand unsuitable for opening One No-Trump.

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard
PFELLA
a. A Moroccan headress
b. Couscous cake
c. A marker

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Junior style
It is a source of constant fascination to psychologists and explorers of cognitive talent that children can display immense expertise in chess.



White: Ponomarev
Black: Garcia Lundain
Pamplona 1996
Scandinavian Defence
1 e4 d5
2 exd5 cxd5
3 Nc3 Cd8
4 d4 Nf6
5 Nf3 c6
6 Be4 Bf5
7 Ne5 e6
8 g4 Bg6
9 h4 Bb4
10 Rh3 Nbd7
11 Oe2 Nf6
12 h5 Bb4
13 Bf4 Qxd4
14 Rd1 Bb3
15 Rhc3 Qd4
16 Rf4 Qd2
17 Nd7 0-0
18 Bxe6 Nbd5
19 Oe5 Qd2
20 Rf6 Nbd4
21 Rf8 Nxc2+
22 Ke2 Qd1
23 Qd3 Qe1+
24 Kc3 Rf8
25 Rf8 Nb4+
26 Rf8 Black resigns

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from Van Wely - Anand, Monaco, 1998. Some consider Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, to be the strongest player in the world. He is certainly strong, but here he suffers a rare defeat. How did the game continue?
Solution on page 50

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

ADVENTURES FROM £5



Times readers can save up to 50 per cent or more on a wide range of adventure activities until July 31, 1998. They are all featured in our Wild Spirits supplement (free with last Saturday's Times).
● Book your visit in advance by telephone with one of the centres listed in the supplement and attach four differently numbered tokens from The Times to the coupon which will appear again on Saturday.
● Each completed coupon entitles you to any offer featured, either as an individual, a family or with friends. Our offer prices are followed by the normal cost in brackets.
● A total of 13 tokens and five coupons will be printed in The Times until Saturday May 9, enabling you to try as many as three different activities if you wish.

TOMORROW: HANG GLIDING, PARAGLIDING AND SCUBA DIVING, CHANGING TIMES
THE TIMES ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES TOKEN 11

RUGBY UNION 47

Rees looking forward to final assignment



FA summons England captain

Shearer called to account over TV clash

By MATT DICKINSON

THE long-running saga over Alan Shearer's televised altercation with Neil Lennon, the Leicester City midfielder, was further complicated yesterday when the England captain was charged with misconduct — but not in so many words.

Although Football Association officials confirmed last night that the Newcastle United striker had indeed been charged, they declined to use the term and insisted instead that Shearer had been summoned to explain the more specific case of "an alleged breach of the rules".

been taken by the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly after a video of the match was viewed.



Martina Hingis, the world No 1, soon settled into a winning groove when she dismissed Fang Li, of China, 6-3, 6-0 when the Italian Open women's tennis championships got underway in Rome yesterday after a washout on Monday

No justice for libel horse at Chester

NOBODY has ever accused poor Top Cees of anything, but yesterday it became the turn of the horse himself to be the injured party. Striving for an unprecedented third success in the Tote Chester Cup, Top Cees — unwitting star of the libel trial that recently gripped the racing world — was fortunate to escape without serious injury when he was brought to his knees.



Lennon lies prostrate after the incident with Shearer

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1399

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- ACROSS
- 1 Fortuitous; offhand (6)
 - 4 Part of egg cauli head (6)
 - 8 Horrid, contemptible (4)
 - 9 Left-handed fighter (8)
 - 10 In free, romantic effusion; drip chaos (anag.) (9)
 - 13 In strange way (5)
 - 15 (Woman) well-built (5)
 - 16 Ground, founding principle (5)
 - 18 Permission (to land); type of sale (9)
 - 21 Wary (8)
 - 22 A drink; a naval town (4)
 - 23 Inter-state agreement (6)
 - 24 Not far off (6)
- DOWN
- 1 France around (6)
 - 2 Content of (school) course (8)
 - 3 Rope with noose (5)
 - 5 One not on time (9)
 - 6 Absorbed, carried away (4)
 - 7 Vulgar, trashy (6)
 - 11 Below the line (character) (9)
 - 12 Southern US; cooking pot (5)
 - 14 Heavy shower (8)
 - 16 Animal as lion, tiger (3,3)
 - 17 Vicar's robing-room (6)
 - 19 Malicious ignition (5)
 - 20 Smoke, eg with anger (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1399

ACROSS: 1 Body-blow 5 Cord 8 Bankrupt 9 Defy
11 Lurid 12 Grenlin 13 Negate 15 Propel 18 Souffle
19 Franc 21 Robe 22 Everyman 23 Tees 24 Organdie
DOWN: 1 Babylon 2 Donor 3 Bored stiff 4 Oppugn
6 Overlap 7 Doyen 10 Terra firma 14 Grumble
16 Licence 17 Beaver 18 Strut 20 Aimed

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-22-99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cryptic £2.00), The Times Junior Crosswords (Book 3) is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99). While supplies last from The Times Bookshop.

The Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.

To order simply call 0900 134 457 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/PO, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 26, Falmouth, TR11 2YJ. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Sorry record puts rock-bottom Blidworth in league of their own

Kevin Eason sees the worst team in England get some national assistance

Wayne Atkins is an optimist, but then he has to be playing for Blidworth's goalkeeper is the latest incumbent during an inglorious season in which his team has conceded 186 goals in 28 games, a record so wonderfully bad that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, decided that they needed help. A lot of help.



Gorman orders the Blidworth players through their paces at Bisham Abbey yesterday



the experts who've been forecasting the future for 20 years

...and depth information... comparative tests... and the new Pentium II...

...World Cup feature... delivers the expert...

ONLY £2.99

NEW! GENTS Computer World

Pound on the slide again

The pound against the foreign exchange... interest rates... have peaked.

Britain's smuggling... also received a boost... the Bank of England's... monetary measures... rates at 7.25 per cent.

The pound firm... three pennies at DM12... a four-and-half-month... On its trade-weighted... sterling declined from 104... and it lost a cent... the dollar to close... \$1.660

TV & RADIO	54-55
WEATHER	25
CROSSWORDS	25
LETTERS	56
OBITUARIES	27
MATTHEW PARRIS	24
ARTS	37-40
CHESS & BRIDGE	53
COURT & SOCIAL	26
SPORT	48-54, 56
STYLE	48-54, 56
LAW REPORT	49

770140*46350